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1	BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
2	PUBLIC MEETING
3	
4	Volume I
5	October 13, 2000
6	1:00 p.m.
7	Borough Assembly Chambers
8	Naknek Alaska
9	
	COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
11	
	Daniel J. O'Hara, Chair
	H. Robin Samuelsen, Vice Chair
	Shirley Kelly, Secretary
	Robert Heyano, Member
	John Christensen, Member
	Andrew Balluta, Member
	Peter M. Abraham, Member
19	
20	Cliff Edenshaw, Coordinator

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00002
                        PROCEEDINGS
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3
            (On record - 1:06 p.m.)
4
5
                     CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We'll call the
6
   meeting to order at about 1:06, and ask Cliff if he would
7
   do the roll call, if he would, please, Council.
8
                     MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 is Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Counsel. Daniel J.
11 O'Hara?
12
13
                     CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                         Here.
14
15
                     MR. EDENSHAW: Robert Heyano?
16
17
                     MR. HEYANO: Here.
18
19
                     MR. EDENSHAW: John Christensen?
20
21
                     MR. CHRISTENSEN:
                                         Here.
22
23
                     MR. EDENSHAW: Andrew Balluta?
24
25
                     MR. BALLUTA: Here.
26
27
                     MR. EDENSHAW: Peter Abraham?
28
29
                     MR. ABRAHAM:
                                    Here.
30
31
                     MR. EDENSHAW:
                                     Robin Samuelsen?
32
33
                     MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                      Here.
34
35
                                      Shirley Kelly?
                     MR. EDENSHAW:
36
37
                     MS. KELLY: Here.
38
39
                     MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, there is a quorum
40 present.
41
42
                     CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Thank you.
43 I'd like to welcome you to the meeting today. And we don't
44 have really a very heavy agenda as far as a lot of 45 proposals are concerned, but we have the reports. And I 46 assume that the Council will probably discuss what will be
47 happening in a January meeting, and then what will be
48 referred to the Federal Board, so you might keep that in
49 mind when we get down to agenda items that we want to
50 approve today, other than what might be on the agenda in
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  front of you. But it's nice to have all of you here today.
  And I think it would be good if we probably went around the
  room and introduced ourselves so that we kind of have an
  idea of who we have here today. So why don't we start over
5
  here with Cliff and we'll go around and then out into the
6
  audience.
7
8
                   MR. EDENSHAW:
                                  My name is Cliff Edenshaw,
9
  I'm the Regional Coordinator, Fish and Wildlife.
10
11
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN: John Christensen,
12 subsistence.
13
14
                   MS. KELLY:
                               Shirley Kelly from Egegik.
15
16
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Welcome her, she's a new
17 appointed council member. I meant to do that under my
18 opening remarks this afternoon. Shirley, it's good to have
19 you on board. Dan O'Hara, Chair.
20
21
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Robin Samuelsen,
22 Dillingham.
23
24
                   MR. ABRAHAM: Pete from Togiak.
25
26
                   MR. BALUTTA: Andrew Balutta, Iliamna.
27
28
                   MR. HEYANO: Robert Heyano, Dillingham.
29
30
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're on.
31
32
                           UNIDENTIFIED VOICE:
                                                Wait a minute.
33
34
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-oh. Oh, I'm sorry.
35
36
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: David.
37
38
                   MR. FISHER: I defer to.....
39
40
           (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech)
41
42
                   MR. FISHER: Dave Fisher, Fish and Wildlife
43 Service, Subsistence Office, Anchorage.
44
45
                   MR. JENNINGS:
                                  Tim Jennings with the Office
46 of Subsistence Management, Anchorage.
47
48
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: Pat McClenahan, staff
49 anthropologist, Bristol Bay Region. I'm with the Office of
50 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.
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                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That lady on the end
  here. We didn't get a chance to introduce you.
                   MS. JURGENSEN: Oh, I'm sorry. Laura
5
  Jurgensen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, staff anthropologist
6
   assigned to the Y-K.
7
8
                   MR. LIND: Orville Lind, ranger for Alaska
9 Peninsula/Becharof Refuge.
10
11
                   MR. KRIEG:
                               Ted Krieg, Subsistence
12 Division, Fish and Game.
13
14
                   MR. BROWNING:
                                  Tim Browning, Alaska
15 Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division,
16 Dillingham.
17
18
                   MR. MORSTAD: Slim Morstad, Alaska
19 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fish,
20 here in King Salmon.
21
22
                   MR. LISAC: Mark Lisac. I'm a fisheries
23 biologist, Togiak Refuge.
24
25
                   MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman, wildlife
26 biologist, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Dillingham.
27
28
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
29
30
                   MR. PARKER: John Park, Togiak Advisory
31 Committee, Vice Chair.
32
33
                   MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm Sandy Rabinowitch
34 with the National Park Service, and on the staff committee
35 for the Federal Board.
36
37
                   MR. CHYTHLOOK: Joe Chythlook, I'm on the
38 staff committee for the State Board.
39
40
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Joseph, nice to have you
41 here today.
42
43
                   MS. CHYTHLOOK:
                                   Molly Chythlook,
44 Subsistence Division, Dillingham.
45
46
                   MR. ANDERSON: Ralph Anderson, BBNA,
47 Natural Resources.
48
49
                   MR. NICHOLSON: Hans Nicholson, BBNA,
50 subsistence coordinator. I work under Ralph in the Natural
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00005
  Resources Department.
                   MR. LARSON: Jim Larson, project leader,
3
4
  King Salmon fishery resource office, Fish and Wildlife
5
  Service.
6
7
                   MR. DUNAWAY: Dan Dunaway, Bristol Bay area
8
  sports fish biologist, Dillingham.
9
10
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
11
12
                   MR. BUNDY: John Bundy, Katmai National
13 Park in King Salmon.
14
15
                   MS. LEGGITT: Deb Leggitt, superintendent
16 of the four southwest national park areas, Aniakchak,
17 Katmai, Lake Clark and the Alagnak.
18
19
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You should stand up and
20 take a bow with a title like that.
21
22
                   MS. LEGGITT: It's kind of like kid's day
23 and I'm always afraid I'm going to miss one.
24
25
                   MR. GREENWOOD: Bruce Greenwood, National
26 Park Service, Alaska Support Office in Anchorage.
27
28
                   MS. McBURNEY:
                                  Mary McBurney, National Park
29 Service.
             subsistence program manager for Katmai, Lake
30 Clark, Aniakchak, and the Alagnak Wild River.
31
32
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                      Okay.
                                             Thank you, Mary.
33
34
                   MS. STICKMAN: I'm Karen Stickman,
35 subsistence coordinator for Lake Clark National Park.
36
37
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                    Okay.
38
39
                   MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Aaron Archibeque, I'm the
40 refuge manager for Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.
41
42
                   MR. LONS: Daryl Lons, refuge manager of
43 Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuges, based here in King
44 Salmon.
45
46
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                      Okay.
47
48
                   MR. KOEPSAL: Mark Koepsal, deputy refuge
49 manager.
             I work with Daryl here in King Salmon.
50
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00006
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
2
3
                   MR. SQUIBB: Ron Squibb, biologist, Alaska
4
  Peninsula Refuge, King Salmon.
5
6
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.
7
8
                   MR. O'HARA: Tom O'Hara, National Park
9
  Service in King Salmon.
10
11
                   MR. BERGELL: Chris Bergell, I'm the chief
12 ranger at Katmai National Park here in King Salmon.
13
14
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
                                            Did we miss
15 somebody here today? Oh, excuse me, one -- Jeff, sorry,
16
17
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   Boy, oh, boy.
18
                   MR. ADAMS: Jeff Adams with Fish and
19
20 Wildlife Service, King Salmon fishery office.
21
22
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you, Jeff.
23 Anyone else that might not have been introduced today?
24 We've just skipped over you? Okay.
25
26
           We'll turn this part of the program over then to
27 Cliff Edenshaw, and he'll handle the election of officers.
28
29
                   MR. EDENSHAW:
                                  Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 office of Chair serves a one-year term, but may serve more
31 than one year if re-elected. Conducts Regional Council
32 meetings, attends and represents the Regional Council at
33 the Federal Subsistence Board meetings, and is a voting
34 member of the Council. At this time I will open up the
35 floor for nominations for Chair. Yes, Mr. Samuelsen?
36
37
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Nominate Dan O'Hara.
38
39
                   MR. ABRAHAM: Second.
40
41
                   MR. EDENSHAW: Dan O'Hara has been
42 nominated for Chair. Mr. Heyano?
43
44
                   MR. HEYANO: Move that nominations be
45 closed.
46
47
                                   Second.
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
48
49
                   MR. EDENSHAW:
                                  Second.
                                           There has been a
50 motion to close the nominations for the Chair for the
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00007
  Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council, and that one nominee
  is Mr. Dan O'Hara. As a designated federal officer, I move
  by unanimous consent that Mr. Dan O'Hara be elected as
  Chair for the Bristol Bay Advisory Council, Regional
5
  Advisory Council for a one-year term. Any objections?
6
7
           (None opposing)
8
9
                   MR. EDENSHAW: So moved.
10
11
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you, guys.
12 Do I go from here,....
13
14
                                 Right.
                   MR. EDENSHAW:
15
16
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....or do you continue
17 on? Okay.
18
19
                   MR. EDENSHAW: I'll turn this over to you,
20 Mr. Chair, to conduct the election for vice chair and
21 secretary.
22
23
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Open the
24 floor for nominations of the.....
25
26
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN: I nominate Robin.
27
28
                   MR. ABRAHAM: Second the motion.
29
30
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any further
31 nominations?
32
33
                   MR. HEYANO: I move that nominations be
34 closed, Mr. Chair.
35
36
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there a second?
37
38
                   MS. KELLY: Second.
39
40
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay. Any discussion.
41 Would unanimous consent be okay?
42
43
                   MR. HEYANO: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
44
45
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Those are
46 done. We need a secretary?
47
48
                   MR. ABRAHAM: I nominate Shirley Kelly.
49
50
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Shirley Kelly.
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00008
                   MR. BALUTTA: I second it.
2
3
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any further nominations?
4
5
                   MR. HEYANO: Move that nominations be
6
  closed, Mr. Chair.
7
8
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
                                     Second.
9
10
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Second.
11
12
                   MS. KELLY: Thanks a lot, guys.
13
14
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And if there's no
15 discussion unanimous consent would be okay?
16
17
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.
18
19
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So moved, thank you very
20 much.
21
22
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Now she's got to keep
23 minutes.
24
25
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay. We would like to
26 review and adoption of the agenda at this time. Council
27 members?
28
29
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman?
30
31
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, sir. Robin?
32
33
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: I move to adopt the agenda.
34
35
                   MR. BALUTTA: Second the motion.
36
37
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Further -- yes, go
38 ahead.
39
40
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, I have one
41 additional item. If you would like, I'd like to give a
42 report. I just concluded meetings in Sitka. Another hat I
43 wear is sitting on the North Pacific Fishery Management
44 Council, and I'd like to report the action that the council
45 took in recognizing halibut as a subsistence food.
46
47
                                     All right. How about if
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
48 we put it under reports up here?
49
50
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Under agenda number 12 I
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00009
   believe, any other new business.
3
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, all right. We'll do
4
  that. Okay.
5
6
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                  Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7
8
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any more discussion on
9
   the motion?
10
11
                   MR. EDENSHAW:
                                  Excuse me, Mr. Chair?
12
13
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Yes?
14
15
                   MR. EDENSHAW: Jim Larson and Jeff Adams
16 had asked -- requested earlier for their names to be
17 included on the agenda, and they work with king salmon
18 fisheries, so if we add those two gentlemen under the
19 number 12 as well?
20
21
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay. Jim Larson and
22 who?
23
                   MR. EDENSHAW: Jeff Adams.
24
25
26
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Jeff Adams. All right.
27 That will be fine if that's okay with -- any other items
28 that need to be added here to the agenda today, council
29 members? Okay. I think that will be fine if there's no
30 other discussion. Excuse me. Call for the question?
31
32
                   MR. HEYANO: Question.
33
34
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor say
35 aye.
36
37
           IN UNISON: Aye.
38
39
                                     Opposed?
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
40
41
           (No opposing votes.)
42
43
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
                                            That will be the
44 agenda for the meeting. We have minutes of March 24 and 25
45 under Tab C of your booklet today. What are the wishes of
46 the Council as far as the minutes of March 24 and 25?
47
48
                   MR. HEYANO:
                                Move to adopt the minutes of
49 March 24 and 25, Mr. Chair.
50
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00010 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert moved to adopt the 2 -- second? 3 4 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I'd second. 5 6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. 7 seconded. Any discussion on the minutes? 8 9 MR. SAMUELSEN: Question. 10 11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I -- just one thing 12 before the question there. 13 14 MR. SAMUELSEN: 15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They did mention in here 16 17 on page six they adjourned the meeting, under the second 18 paragraph. And we don't -- if we take a break, we recess, 19 we don't adjourn, because then you've got to call a whole 20 other minute. It's just a technical deal, but -- okay. 21 And that's fine. I think that's all. 22 23 MS. KELLY: I have a correction on page 24 five. 25 26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. What is it, 27 Shirley? 28 29 MS. KELLY: The last paragraph under public 30 testimony, the third -- beginning of the third sentence, it 31 should say, New Stuyahok limited instead of unlimited. 32 33 There is a difference. CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 34 Okay. 35 MR. HEYANO: On that same section, Mr. 36 37 Chair, it's Timothy Wonhola. It should be a W instead of 38 an M. 39 40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay. Good. 41 saw that. Thank you. I guess someone is reading the 42 minutes then. Any other corrections, Council members? 43 44 MS. KELLY: On page nine. 45 46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. 47 MS. KELLY: The fourth paragraph, the end 49 of the third sentence. Instead of Robin, it should say 50 Robert.

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00011
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that what happened
2
   there?
3
4
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: I think -- Mr. Chairman?
5
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robin.
7
8
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: I think what happened there
9
   is that Robert addressed Alagnak, and I addressed the
10 criteria.
11
12
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.
13
14
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: And it should be broken
15 out.
16
17
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I think that's what
18 happened, because I remember definitely the criteria
19 was.....
20
21
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.
22
23
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....something as far as
24 the minutes go, that I was to carry back to the Federal
25 Board when it went back. I think it's Paul Rignowski or
26 Paul Rignowski or whatever his name is, scientist, research
27 department for Bristol Bay, made a presentation to the
28 Federal Board on this very criteria item, and we felt it
29 was pretty important that that took place, so -- if you
30 like, after we have a break.....
31
32
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                  Maybe Robert has.....
33
34
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, did you have a
35 thought on that?
36
37
                   MR. HEYANO: No.
38
39
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     No?
40
41
                   MR. HEYANO: My memory doesn't serve me
42 that well.
43
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Okay.
44
45 Yeah, I'm pretty sure Robin addressed the criteria part,
46 and then Robert addressed the Branch, so -- anything else?
47
48
                   MS. KELLY: On page 12, the seventh
49 paragraph. It's just a spelling error. It should be Ole
50 Matissen, O-l-e. And there's an extra E in his last name.
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00012
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Okay. Anything
   else, Council members on the minutes? The question's been
   called for. All those in favor say aye.
4
5
           IN UNISON:
                        Aye.
6
7
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?
8
9
           (No opposing votes.)
10
11
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Got the minutes.
12 At this time I'll ask Cliff Edenshaw if he would take us to
13 805 letter and Board response to the annual report. And
14 that's under Tab D.
15
16
                    MR. EDENSHAW:
                                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 the council, I went ahead when we had our booklet sent to
18 the publisher to have them bind it -- bound together, if
19 you Tab D, there's the annual, which is the response from
20 the Federal Subsistence Board. And handout I put in front 21 of you is dated June 7th, 2000, and the 805 letter's our
22 response to the May 2nd through the 4th Federal Subsistence
23 Board meeting held in Anchorage to address those proposals,
24 those actions and proposals that the Council took on. So
25 that's -- part of the legislation requires that the Federal
26 Subsistence Board respond to the Council's proposals, and
27 if there were any that were not adopted at this council
28 meet- -- at the Board meeting in May, the Secretary has the
29 responsibility to respond to the Council stating the facts
30 for any rejection of those proposals. And.....
31
32
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                      Cliff, excuse me.
33
34
                   MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.
35
36
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: This is the letter you're
37 referring to here?
38
39
                    MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, sir.
40
41
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, you
42 should have that in front of you.
43
                    MR. EDENSHAW:
44
                                   The top of it has the
45 Federal Subsistence Board on it,....
46
47
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                      It says January 7th....
48
49
                   MR. EDENSHAW: .....and this is the 805
50 letter.
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00013
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Everyone should
   have gotten a copy there in front of them.
3
4
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.
5
б
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.
                                            Go ahead, Cliff.
7
  Did you have more on the annual report?
8
                   MR. EDENSHAW: Well, I think the annual
10 report is here -- didn't.....
11
12
                   MR. ABRAHAM: Okay. On this subsistence --
13 the one we're looking at right now, Federal Subsistence
14 Board, June 7th?
15
16
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.
                                           (Affirmative)
17
18
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yep.
19
20
                   MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.
21
22
                   MR. ABRAHAM: On the back, page number 4,
23 the Napaskiak caribou, 17(A), 17(B).
24
25
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Proposal.
26
27
                   MR. ABRAHAM: It says over here they don't
28 participate on these hunts, and that's wrong.
29 participate.
30
31
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What.....
32
33
                   MR. ABRAHAM:
                                 Okay.
34
35
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What paragraph are you
36 on?
37
38
                   MR. ABRAHAM:
                                  Caribou hunt.
39
40
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: On Napaskiak, okay.
41
42
                   MR. ABRAHAM: I called the Regional Council
43 over there, and they said they do hunt, you know, where
44 Akiachak and Akiak hunts. You know, that -- you know, they
45 meet up there, and they do use that area.
46
47
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else on
48 the annual report, Council members?
49
50
                   MR. EDENSHAW: If you look into your --
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00014
  after Tab D, this here is the annual report, and on the top
  it's dated August 28th, 2000. On the first issue, a
  follow-up regarding the 1994 annual report when the
  Regional Council submitted a request to the Board
5
  requesting a positive customary and traditional use
  determination for ORV use in Katmai National Park and
7 Preserve. And, you know, when I made up the agenda, a portion of this will be covered by Deb Leggitt, the
9 superintendent, regarding this portion of the annual
10 report, as well as I believe that actually should be the
11 Alaknak, is that correct, Deb?
12
13
                   MS. LEGGITT: (Indiscernible - away from
14 microphone)
                Are we still on the January -- June 7th
15 letter?
16
17
                   MR. EDENSHAW: No, we're going to move into
18 the....
19
20
                   MS. LEGGITT: I....
21
22
                   MR. EDENSHAW: .....annual report response.
23
24
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So what you said
25 in essence, we'll -- we will have some more on the Branch
26 and then we'll have the discussion of the.....
27
28
                   MR. EDENSHAW:
                                  ORV.
29
30
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: ....ORV.....
31
32
                   MR. EDENSHAW: Customary and traditional
33 use.
34
35
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....for Kakhonak,
36 Iquiqiq, Levelock? Okay. Just so we can get that in the
37 minutes. And that was from Deb Leggitt, superintendent.
38 So if you can have that in our minutes. Okay. Anything
39 else?
40
41
                   MR. EDENSHAW:
                                  And then getting back here
42 on the annual report, the next issue, the federal
43 subsistence fisheries MOA. We'll -- Tim Jennings will
44 provide an update regarding OSM fisheries, and then we
45 included on here a short two paragraphs regarding what the
46 current status of the MOA is and other protocols regarding
47 in-season management fisheries. You know, the training
48 that we're going to -- that will also be covered later in
49 this agenda, also will address some of those issues
50 regarding post season data collection. So Tim will provide
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00015 an update regarding that issue. 3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Due to ignorance, I had 4 to ask Robin what OSM means? Office of..... 5 6 MR. EDENSHAW: Office of Subsistence 7 Management. 8 9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. I'm sorry 10 about that, but there may be someone else in the audience 11 who doesn't recognize all these initials, too, so --12 anything else, Cliff? 13 14 MR. EDENSHAW: No. And then you can move 15 over to the next page, and for those individuals here in 16 the audience, up here on our table up here, we have some 17 information regarding -- if you'll look down this next page 18 on page three, it goes into the cooperative management, 19 federal organization structure, staffing and budget, the 20 federal/state cooperative management, and disregard number 21 6, although it's listed in here, but we do have some 22 handouts regarding an update on OSM fisheries, and that 23 will be covered later in this agenda, too. 24 25 And then if you go back -- flip over to the last 26 page, on page four, we go into customary trade, and we were 27 going to address that at the council meeting on a portion 28 of the agendas, and we went ahead and withdrew that, and if 29 the Council has any questions regarding that, Tim would be 30 able to answer, or Sandy specifically, either of those two 31 regarding customary trade. 32 33 And then issue number 8, the training and education 34 needs, that will be covered under the agenda under OSM. 35 There will be another training session in January. 36 37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any 38 questions, Council members, on the annual report? 39 40 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. 41 question on who is the new customary trade working group? 42 43 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair? 44

46
47 MR. JENNINGS: Tim Jennings with the Office
48 of Subsistence Management. It's still in formation. We're
49 reconstituting that working group. Pete Probasco, a new
50 employee, is going to be the chair, and we're going to try

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

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  and broaden out the participation in that working group to
  include fisheries and anthropologists and we're going to
  bring to the January training session an update on where
  that group stands with the work on customary trade.
  There's still the goal to look at customary trade
  statewide, but then to look at it on a regional basis in
7
  terms of defining -- trying to get a better grip on
8
  significant commercial enterprise.
9
10
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Cliff, is this why the
11 customary trade was taken off the agenda then? Why was it
12 removed from the agenda, just because you haven't come up
13 yet with.....
14
15
                   MR. JENNINGS: Because the....
16
17
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....a dollar amount?
18
19
                   MR. JENNINGS: .....the status is that the
20 group is reforming, and there's really no new additional
21 information to offer at this time.
22
23
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.
                                              Robert? Or did
24 you have any more questions?
25
26
                   MR. HEYANO: Reforming. Was there an
27 existing group?
28
29
                   MR. JENNINGS:
                                  There was an existing group
30 within our office that had been tasked with follow-up on
31 this topic, yes.
32
33
                   MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?
34
35
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Yes.
36
37
                   MR. ABRAHAM: Yes. What -- is this
38 customary trade, where is it? I mean, is this just this
39 area here or including.....
40
41
                   MR. JENNINGS: It's a statewide issue.
42 It's in our regulations that allows customary trade, barter
43 and exchange as well as exchange for cash of subsistence
44 resources, as long as it -- the exchange for cash doesn't
45 constitute a significant commercial enterprise.
46
47
                   MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. I think we discussed
48 that, what, last year, was it?
49
50
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
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                   MR. JENNINGS: We brought.....
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3
                                 Yeah, last year.
                   MR. ABRAHAM:
4
5
                   MR. JENNINGS: .....an update last year,
6
   correct.
7
8
                   MR. ABRAHAM:
                                 Yeah.
9
10
                   MR. JENNINGS: And so this is a follow up
11 to that.
12
13
                   MR. ABRAHAM: I would advise your working
14 group not to change a lot, because that will -- that's
15 going to create a lot of confusion if there's some, you
16 know, major changes. You know, just study, and find out
17 and go from there. If you have -- if you make any changes,
18 a lot of the older people are going to get you know, more
19 con -- you're just going to create more confusion, because
20 it's been going on for, you know, centuries after centuries
21 of our customary trade. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22
23
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.
                                            Robin, did you
24 have a comment?
25
26
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, Thank you, Mr.
27 Chairman. Over the last four years, Chairman Lauber (ph)
28 of the North Pacific Management Council appointed me as
29 chairman of the halibut of the halibut subsistence working
30 group, and over the last four years, I've met with native
31 organizations from Southeast all the way up to Kotzebue,
32 and we were the first organization to put a cap on
33 customary trade and barter, and that cap is -- was set at
34 the North Pacific Management Council at $400 a year. Prior
35 to the council meeting, the native groups from throughout
36 the State of Alaska were requesting a minimum of $200, but
37 at this meeting we heard compelling arguments why it should
38 be $400. Rising costs of fuel. And I think it's very
39 important to put a maximum in there, because I'll just
40 remind the council that in Southeast Alaska a judge ruled
41 that $19,000 worth of herring roe sales was not -- was not
42 excessive, and.....
43
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You don't hear very much
45 about that ruling any more, I'll guarantee you.
46
47
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   Oh, yeah.
48
49
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They tried to sweep that
50 baby right under the rug, but it's on the record. And I
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00018 think, you know, if you were to approach this council, probably we would be willing to begin looking at a dollar amount for customary trade. And I was thinking of \$300, but 400 if you've done some extensive hearings throughout the state. And it's our understanding that this will be for all of the State of Alaska, not just our council or 7 Bristol Bay region saying this would be our dollar amount, is that right? 8 9 10 MR. JENNINGS: As I understand it, the 11 initiative is to look at defining customary trade in terms 12 of the significant commercial enterprise, because as --13 it's not defined in our regulation what the cap is, and we 14 would look at that on a statewide basis, but also on a 15 regional basis as needed. When we went to the councils 16 last year with this issue, there was a lot of input from 17 the councils that they thought it should be regionalized. 18 19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. 20 21 MR. JENNINGS: The other task of the group 22 is to continue to look at customary and traditional 23 practices for customary trade, and to be sure we have a 24 complete understanding of what kind of practices have been 25 done in the region. 26 27 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman? 28 29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, go ahead, Robin. 30 31 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chair? 32 33 MR. SAMUELSEN: Maybe I need to clear 34 myself. That was customary and traditional trade through 35 monetary exchange to not exceed \$400 per individual, but 36 under customary and traditional trade through nonmonetary 37 exchange, there was not a cap on that, and it could be 38 traded with anyone. 39 40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. And we all 41 understand that way. 42 43 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

44

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48 49

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CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There's a dollar amount, 46 but the use of the resource other than dollar amount, there 47 really isn't an amount.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

00019 1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Peter? 2 3 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, on the last meeting in Yu -- Y-K Delta area in Quinhagak was last 5 year. They didn't discuss any dollar amount on the customary trade, but they wanted to leave alone it alone as it is, because, you know, like with halibut (ph), but, you 7 know, they never mentioned any dollar amount on those. But, you know, I agree though it -- when we discussed that 10 kelp thing over there, you know, I don't think it's going 11 to happen, I mean, anywhere, because we have protections 12 and stuff like that, and..... 13 14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How long do you think it 15 will take you to get this study done? I mean, these 16 programs can go on forever and here we sit. I think we'd 17 be almost ready to say, you know, we've looked at some 18 information or I would -- I don't want to keep dragging 19 this thing on, when we come back next year, we still 20 haven't made the decision. What are your thoughts? 21 22 MR. JENNINGS: Well, I can tell you what --23 report what the Board had discussed, and at least one Board 24 member, Federal Subsistence Board member, would like the 25 group to have the issue of defining significant commercial 26 enterprise completed by the next fishing season. So that's 27 the goal of at least one Board member. 28 29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, I'm really 30 glad we've had this discussion, because it is an important 31 issue. Any other concern, Council members, that..... 32 33 Yeah, Mr. Chairman? MR. ABRAHAM: 34 35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Pete? 36 37 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes. I think it would be a 38 good idea to mention this in the regional training in 39 Anchorage I think in December is it, because you'll have 40 different.... 41 42 MR. JENNINGS: It will be in January. 43 44 MR. ABRAHAM: Or in January, yeah. A good 45 idea to bring this up at the time, because you can get 46 input from different regions right there to..... 47 48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. 49 50 MR. JENNINGS: I believe that's part of the

00020 game plan, Mr. Chair. CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That will be good. 3 That will be good. Yeah. Anything else, Council 5 members on customary trade? 6 7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Robert. 8 9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, I'm sorry. 10 11 MR. HEYANO: One more question, Mr. Chair. 12 You know, the comments says -- here says all Council chairs 13 wish to be included early in the discussion. Is there any 14 plans on how that's going to be accomplished? It's pretty 15 apparent that they haven't been included to date. Are they 16 going to be part of this working group? 17 18 MR. JENNINGS: I believe there's going to 19 be an outreach to the councils. I'm not part of this new 20 working group, so I'm not familiar with the exact specifics 21 of how that will be accomplished. But I think it still is 22 the goal of this work group to coordinate with the 23 councils, because we know that the councils have a high 24 interest in this subject. 25 26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, do you want any 27 more discussion? 28 29 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think it's a -- I 30 think it would be appropriate, Mr. Chair, that sometime 31 during the meeting that maybe we outline what our wishes 32 were on the definition to be included early in the 33 discussion. 34 35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Otherwise you 36 might come back and not recognize what you'd done. We 37 might go out and do something and then let you know. 38 That's a good idea. Will there be a Federal Board meeting 39 in December? 40 41 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair. 42 43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are the council chairs 44 going to be at that meeting? 45 46 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair. 47 48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. I think, 49 Robert, that it would be really good if we have a 50 discussion on this prior to us ending this meeting so that

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  attending that Federal Board meeting, we will have some
  direction from this council on where we want to go.
  think we should probably have some clear direction.
  Anything else on this issue? We knew this was going to be
5
  a good issue that we would discuss here on the annual
6
  report. Thank you, Tim,....
7
8
                   MR. JENNINGS:
                                   Uh-huh.
9
10
                                      .....if nothing else?
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
11 Okay. Cliff, what else do you have?
12
13
                   MR. EDENSHAW:
                                   That concluded the annual
14 report responses, Mr. Chair.
15
16
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                      Is there....
17
18
                   MR. EDENSHAW: Unless the Council has
19 additional question regarding the Board's responses to
20 these issues.
21
22
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                      Okay. You had one more
23 there. That was training/education needs and options.
24 What are your plans on that?
25
26
                   MR. EDENSHAW: Well, Mr. Chair, for --
27 under number 8 here on page four of the annual report, as
28 Tim mentioned, in January the 22nd through 26th, that is
29 when they're proposing to have and additional, a follow-up
30 from last year's training course. And at that time they're
31 also proposing for the councils to set aside one day for
32 them to review the resource monitoring projects.
33 there's been some -- I'm not sure if it's included in the
34 -- if you look under Tab G, and if you go back into -- and 35 this will be also -- I'll just touch upon this a little bit
36 here, but we're also looking for additional topics or
37 concerns the council members may have when they attend this
38 January training for items that they feel are important
39 that should be discussed at this training in January.
40 most of you recall last year, most of the discussions
41 during the first two days were tied to -- the Alaska
42 Department of Fish and Game provided some excellent
43 presentations regarding sonar counts, some genetics and
44 other issues. So before this convenes in January, we'd
45 welcome any ideas, issues that the Council feels should be
46 addressed at this January training council.
47
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you. Yes,
48
49 Tim, did you have more?
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MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, I just wanted to mention that we will cover this item later on in the agenda in terms of the January training session, and be seeking council input and advice on how to structure that training, so it's later on in the agenda.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you. Any other questions, Council members on the annual report? Does this require an action that we accept this report?

MR. EDENSHAW: No, Mr. Chair. That was the 12 Board's response to the.....

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

16 MR. EDENSHAW:to the annual report we 17 submitted at the last RAC meeting.

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. If no further 20 questions or comments, Council members, Robert, where did 21 you want to discuss the customary trade on this agenda 22 before we leave?

MR. HEYANO: Probably under item 12, Mr.

25 Chair.

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Number 12. Okay. Okay. 28 Let's make sure we -- yeah, that herring case in Southeast 29 was very, very fascinating. I talked to the lawyer that 30 won that case, and it's -- that's pretty interesting.

At this time, if we have no more comment from the 33 Council members on the annual report, we'll go to any 34 public comment that we might have from the audience today? 35 And looking out there and seeing a sea of bureaucrats, I 36 don't imagine there's very much in the way of public 37 comment. Any public comment today from the floor? Yes.

MR. CHYTHLOOK: Mr. Chair, Joe Chythlook.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Come up here and talk to 42 us, Joseph. If you want to speak in Yup'ik, I'm sure we 43 can have an interpreter, too, okay?

MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, Mr. Chair, thank you. 46 I just wanted to comment that this year we have an MOA with 47 the Federal Subsistence Board. This is -- had board 48 support and Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and because 49 of that we have one member from our advisory committee 50 system here today to testify on behalf of a proposal I

think from Togiak. And we appreciate that opportunity from the Board support angle. I was looking at your agenda and I would like to suggest if we had this similar type thing for the future, like if some other advisory committees 5 might get involved in the federal program in the future, and if funding allows, we'd like to have a place in your 7 agenda in the future for advisory committee input of some sort. I notice -- you know, I guess that could fit in as public comment, but I would like to suggest it would be 10 nice if we're going to be working with your council, that 11 it would be nice to have a place in your agenda for our 12 advisory committee input as appropriate, you know, if we 13 have -- for instance, if Nushagak Advisory Committee or 14 south -- or Naknek had an agenda item on your -- well, for 15 action, I think it would be nice to have a place in the 16 agenda in the future. Like today Togiak is here and I 17 noticed they don't have a place for advisory committee 18 comment or whatever. So I just wanted to make that point.

19 20

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Good, Joe. 21 questions, Council member, or any comments? We have a line 22 up here, Joe, of a whole page of reports and department 23 heads, and I think it would be great if we had a place 24 there, Cliff, that we could work on this, and for advisory 25 -- you know, the Federal Board can either accept or reject 26 whatever we want anyway, but I think so many of our people 27 who sit on this council are also involved in the advisory, 28 State of Alaska, so that would be good. And really we need 29 to work hard on seeing if we can have the federal program, 30 maybe when we've got big agenda items on here, that we 31 would have at least the chair of your advisory council or 32 somebody who could come represent that.

33 34

MR. CHYTHLOOK: Well, Board support got to 35 the tune of about \$45,000 from the federal program this 36 hear to be involved in regional council meetings, and we 37 appreciate that, and we're hoping that that participation 38 will increase and we'll get some more money, so we'll see 39 more of our advisory committee members if -- I know our 40 area is kind of limited as far as, you know, federal lands 41 to where some of the advisory committees can participate 42 from, but presently it's just Togiak and Kodiak that are 43 involved for this year, but....

44 45

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Yeah. Okay.

46 Yes, sir?

40 ies, sir:

MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman?

49 50

48

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pete.

MR. ABRAHAM: I think we're lacking of communication right there. I think the coordinator needs to contact ADF&G and maybe even traditional councils in the villages, make them aware of these things over here, and then they can, you know, they can have a time to present their needs and like that. I think that's a good idea what you have. So we're lacking our communication.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

9 10

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MR. CHYTHLOOK: Don't want to give you any 12 more work, Mr. Chair, but we'd like to be part of it. 13 Thank you.

14 15

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. Thank you, Joe, 16 appreciate it a lot. Any other comments under public 17 comment today? Any member of the public that would like to 18 address the council today? Okay. There will be other 19 opportunities should others come in. I know some of the 20 villages called in and said there's a possibility they'll 21 be here.

22 23

Number 9 fishery proposal review and regional council recommendation. Tab E. Cliff?

25 26

MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 27 for the council's -- Pat McClenahan is going to address 28 these proposals, but before she gets into that, you can see 29 under Tab E, which is where the staff analysis are, but 30 she'll start off with the introduction, biological/socio 31 analysis in that order, and then Alaska Department of Fish 32 and Game, I'm not certain if one of these individuals here 33 are going to provide ADF&G's comments regarding the 34 proposal. And then we'll go into summary of written and 35 public comments, and then any of the individuals here in 36 the public can choose to testify regarding the proposal, 37 and, of course, the regional council deliberation and 38 recommendation. And as Tim was stating earlier, the 39 Federal Subsistence Board will meet in December to finalize 40 these proposals in the first week, I think it's the 2nd 41 through 6th in Anchorage.

42 43

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Pat?

44

MS. McCLENAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 46 Pat McClenahan, staff anthropologist. The first item we'll 47 take up is draft staff analysis for Proposal 12. It's on 48 page five of your book under Tab E. Proposal 12 was 49 submitted by the Bristol Bay Native Association, Natural 50 Resources Department in Dillingham, and it requests a

change in the requirement immediately to remove the hear of subsistence caught coho salmon from the Togiak River after August 20th. Existing federal subsistence fishing regulations governing possession of subsistence caught coho salmon in the Togiak section and the Togiak River drainage are here on page five for you to study. Togiak River, excluding its tributaries, you may also take salmon by spear in the Togiak River and drainage. You may not possess coho salmon for subsistence purposes after August 20th unless the head has been immediately removed from the salmon.

12 13

This requirement is also present in state 14 regulations at this time, and it was put in place in 1979, 15 which is a correction from the draft that you have in front 16 of you. I have down that it was set in place in the early 17 80s. A request to change this requirement in state 18 regulation has also been submitted, and it will be taken up 19 in November.

20 21

Federal public lands and waters affected by this proposal are limited to those administered by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. Togiak River drainage coho salmon are among the largest coho in Alaska. They've been a popular target of commercial, subsistence and nonsubsistence fisherman.

27

28 The reason that the -- this requirement to remove 29 the head was set in place in the first place was because 30 coho salmon were sold commercial under the guise of 31 subsistence. The requirement to remove the head made the 32 salmon immediately recognizable as subsistence-caught fish. 33 At the same time, it made them undesirable to commercial 34 buyers. According to ADF&G, state Fish and Wildlife 35 Protection and federal refuge law enforcement officials, 36 there have been no recorded violations of this regulation 37 for the past five years. And Togiak National Wildlife 38 Refuge managers and staff are not aware of any recent 39 problems. However, I talked to Major James Cockrell of 40 Fish and Wildlife Protection in August, and he reported 41 that he and Jim Browning, Alaska Department of Fish and 42 Game, received a number of complaints in 1998 from the 43 Village of Togiak and from local nonsubsistence fish In September '98 Browning announced a closure due 44 lodges. 45 to illegal fishing activity. Subsequently, Major Cockrell 46 instituted a stakeout on the river, but officers were 47 unable to document any cases of illegal fishing at that 48 time.

49 50

Bristol Bay Native Association on behalf of

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7

subsistence users in the Togiak region is making this request because the salmon meat can easily become contaminated when the head's removed. Removing the head immediately after the fish is caught is not a customary practice of Alaska native people on the -- in the Togiak region.

While complaints about illegal fishing for coho salmon have been received by the ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife Protection officers, currently there are no documented law enforcement cases of illegally caught coho zalmon in this region. And past records indicate no documented cases since the early 1980s. Nowhere else in Alaska is there a similar requirement in these -- in the regulations. The same results may be accomplished using a marking method that's less intrusive and less objectionable for the subsistence users. Everywhere else in Alaska the

18 requirement is to clip the caudal fin or the dorsal fin to 19 identify subsistence caught salmon.

20 21

And so our preliminary staff conclusion is to 22 modify the proposal to request that the existing federal 23 regulation be modified to read as follows on page seven, to 24 strike out in the Togiak River and drainage, you may not 25 possess coho salmon for subsistence purposes after August 26 20th unless the head's been immediately removed from the 27 salmon, and to add no person may possess coho salmon taken 28 under the authority of a subsistence fishing permit unless 29 both lobes of the caudal fin (tail) have been immediately 30 removed from the salmon.

31 32

Justification for this are as I've said before.

There's no requirement to immediately remove the head of subsistence caught fish anywhere else in Alaska. The problem that created this regulation has not been documented to have occurred for some time. There's a danger of contaminating the meat of the fish removing the head once the fish is caught. Alaska native fishermen do not customarily immediately remove the heads of the subsistence fish. Removing portions of the caudal fin serves equally well to identify subsistence caught fish, and it -- at the same time keeps the fish intact and avoids contaminating the meat.

44

The Togiak National Wildlife refuge manager, 46 Bristol Bay Native Association, Natural Resources manager, 47 and state Fish and Wildlife Protection officers support the 48 proposed modification of the proposal, that is, to remove 49 portions of the caudal fin to identify subsistence caught 50 fish. The local area management biologist, Alaska

Department of Fish and Game, does have reservations about modifying the existing regulation. He believes that a law enforcement problem still exists with respect to coho salmon from this area reaching the commercial market. The proposed modification would bring the regulation into line with the existing federal regulations for other areas of the state.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, Pat?

MS. McCLENAHAN: That's for this one.

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any questions, 14 council members, of Pat? Yeah, Robert?

MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I mean, Peter.

MR. ABRAHAM: We had the problem with the 21 poaching of coho salmon in not just Togiak River, but the 22 other rivers over there. This is quite a while back. But 23 I think a couple years ago, I think I advised Jim Browning, 24 if I remember right, if there's any suspicion of poaching 25 in the river, you know, I think I advised him to 26 immediately close the commercial fishery right there.

As for beheading and identify coho salmon as 29 subsistence caught fish, that's going to be a tough thing 30 over there, because that's the -- I mean, I never see 31 anybody over there beheading silver salmon in the river, 32 unless the party is going to, you know, prepare a fish 33 right here for salting and whatever, hanging, you know, he 34 just clean it up right there in the river and take it home 35 in containers.

But I think it's going to be a tough problem I 38 think to try to enforce the heading thing over there. I 39 think the only best solution to that is like the one I gave 40 advice to Jim Browning, if there's a suspicion of poaching, 41 close the commercial fishing immediately. You know, this 42 way is the only way I think to stop the poaching over 43 there. That's all I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other 46 questions or comments of council? We're just having a 47 report from Pat on the introduction of the proposal. Yeah, 48 Robert?

MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. What's the

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  caudal fin?
3
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: The tail.
4
5
                   MR. HEYANO: So the -- so what this modifi
6
  -- the primary conclusion is to remove the tail?
7
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: Not the whole tail, but
  just the two lobes. The tail goes like this, so to clip
10 both sides. Not to take the whole tail off.
11
12
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Just the ends?
13
14
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: Just the ends of the two
15 fins.
16
17
                   MR. ABRAHAM:
                                 Shorten -- I mean, in the
18 tail end like that? Chop those off?
19
20
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Just clip.....
21
22
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: Just two sides, yeah.
                                                            Ιt
23 goes like this.
24
25
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Make the tail round.
26
27
                   MR. ABRAHAM: Instead of making.....
28
29
                   MS. McCLENAHAN:
                                    It's....
30
31
                   MR. ABRAHAM: .....make -- instead of
32 looking like a standard cruiser, just make it look like a
33 kite?
34
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: Like a box.
35
36
37
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good question.
38 Robert?
39
40
                   MR. HEYANO: We're talking about federal
41 waters now, right?
42
43
                   MS. McCLENAHAN:
                                    Yes.
44
45
                   MR. HEYANO: So that's everything up from
46 the white into the -- anything above the white, is that
47 right?
48
49
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: It's.....
50
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00029
1
                   MR. HEYANO: Is that those.....
2
3
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: I think that maybe your
4
   little map might have a better picture, or if you have the
5
   state -- the federal fishing regulations.
6
7
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: It's everything up here,
8
  yes?
9
10
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: I don't know if these are
11 any better. You might be able to (indiscernible).
12
13
                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I've got one.
14
15
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: Oh, okay. You have one.
16
17
           (Off record conversation, distributing maps)
18
19
                   MS. McCLENAHAN:
                                    The map in here might be
20 better. Dan, do you have one of these?
21
22
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, thank you.
23
24
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: But it's everything in
25 pink?
26
27
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: It's everything in red,
28 yeah.
29
30
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Or red, or whatever the
31 color is.
32
33
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: I mean, the rivers would
34 be marked red.
35
36
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Who handles the socio,
37 economic, biological part?
38
39
                   MR. EDENSHAW:
                                  Mr. Chair, that was.....
40
41
                   MR. HEYANO: I guess I've got.....
42
43
                   MR. EDENSHAW: .....that's what Pat had
44 provided.
45
46
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay. All right.
47 was Pat's.
48
49
                   MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.
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1
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
2
3
                   MR. HEYANO: So my -- how much of the
4
  subsistence fishing for coho salmon takes place in federal
5
  waters?
6
7
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: I don't have a percentage.
8
  I'm not sure.
9
10
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who's your biologist?
11
12
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: We don't have one right
13 now.
14
15
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: For the refuge?
16
17
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: Oh, the refuge biologist
18 is.....
19
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
20
                                     I mean, that's -- this is
21 Togiak. They should certainly have an answer to that.
22
23
                   MS. McCLENAHAN:
                                    We could ask Aaron.
24
25
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
26
27
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Aaron Archibeque.
28
29
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: Aaron Archibeque.
30
31
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Aaron?
32
33
                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE:
                                        Mark.
34
35
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: Or Mark.
36
37
                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mark is the
38 fisheries.....
39
40
                   MS. McCLENAHAN: Okay.
                                           Why don't you come
41 up here then.
42
43
                   MR. LISAC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
           I'm the fish biologist for Togiak Refuge.
45 the one question is how much of this water is in federal
46 jurisdiction. My understanding is it would be all of the
47 Togiak River. As far as how much of the subsistence
48 fishing occurs within the river, we don't really have a
49 number on that. I would suspect, you know, that it's a
50 portion. Pete may have a better handle on how much coho
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00031
   subsistence fishing occurs actually in the Togiak River as
   opposed to out in the commercial fishing district.
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                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I think it's a
5
  tough question, but.....
б
7
                   MR. LISAC:
                               Uh-huh.
8
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....because you've got
9
10 both -- Robert, go ahead.
11
12
                   MR. HEYANO: You're saying all of Togiak
13 River is federal waters?
14
15
                   MR. LISAC: I believe now under -- it falls
16 underneath the federal subsistence fisheries management.
17
18
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pete, did you have a
19 comment?
20
21
                   MR. LISAC: Right, Tim?
                                            It's....
22
23
                   MR. ABRAHAM: Yes.
24
25
                   MR. LISAC: .....within the boundaries?
26
27
                   MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, Robert,
28 for subsistence use in Togiak I think, and I can average
29 that, I think Molly might have some information, but I can
30 I think average per home in Togiak is no more than I think
31 20 per -- I mean, during the coho season, because before
32 that, you know, when the salmon season's open, you know,
33 people cut, dry their fish and everything, and I believe
34 Molly will have more information on the subsistence catch.
35
36
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Robert, would you like a
37 little more information on that?
38
39
                   MR. HEYANO: No.
                                     And I think, Mr.
40 Chairman, if in fact all of Togiak River's in federal
41 water, I guess the other question doesn't -- isn't very
42 valid, but -- because I know there's been proposals
43 submitted for the State Board of Fish to consider the same
44 regulation, and if it's all in federal waters, why would
45 the state be wanting to consider it?
46
47
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Robin, did you have a
48 comment?
49
50
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I think that -- I
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don't want to date myself, but when this regulation was first put in by the Board of Fish, and maybe Pete could correct me if I'm wrong, it -- there was some abuses in the Togiak section, but there was horrendous abuses if I remember correctly in the Kulukak section, that there was no monitoring going on. And once monitoring did take place, that Kulukak with its fragile silver run, they're very easy to catch, because they enter -- come out of Kulukak Bay and they -- then they basically stop in the mouth of Kulukak River, and they school up there. And 11 people were round hauling them at that time,....

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

MR. SAMUELSEN:trying to market them.

16 If my memory serves me correctly. So I think we need to

17 put it in scope, it isn't just Togiak River we're talking

18 about. We're talking about the Togiak District, including

19 Kulukak.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Thank you, Mark.

MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We appreciate it.

MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. It's not 28 just Kulukak. It's Salsbiak (ph), Matogak. If there's any 29 fishery open during -- I mean, during the coho season, if 30 there's a boat fishing inside the river from Aktuak (ph), 31 Olohak (ph), Asbiak (ph), that's the time to mark the fish 32 right there, you know, if the fish are caught from the 33 other regions of Togiak Bay. Togiak River is the main 34 fishing place -- fish the area, but for -- in all them 35 areas, you know, I haven't seen anybody going so far to go 36 after coho salmon when the coho salmons right in the river.

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other comments 39 for Pat McClenahan? All right.

MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman?

MR. HEYANO: This proposal and this 46 regulation speaks specifically to the Togiak River only. 47 And it's tributaries, so it doesn't include any of the 48 other systems in the Togiak District.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA:

MR. ABRAHAM: It should mention the other

Excuse me.

Robert?

00033 rivers, too, I think. 2 3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. 4 5 MS. McCLENAHAN: Do you want to modify 6 this? 7 8 I don't know. CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 9 10 MR. SAMUELSEN: After public comment. 11 12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we've got a few 13 more people to talk to yet before we get to this, so we'll 14 go on. If there are no further comment, Alaska Department 15 of Fish and Game I believe which is the next one. If 16 there's anyone here who would address -- would like to 17 address that from ADF&G? Yeah. 18 19 MR. BROWNING: Mr. Chairman,.... 20 21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. 22 23 MR. BROWNING:Jim Browning with 24 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries 25 Division, and the area biologist for Nushagak and Togiak 26 Districts. 27 28 I guess I'd start off with saying that the 29 Department as far as staff comments does not oppose the 30 proposal as currently written, would like to point out in 31 addition to that nonopposition that we feel that some 32 marking requirement clearly marking subsistence-taken fish 33 is needed in the Togiak District and the Togiak drainage. 34 35 And I guess I would also like to respond to some 36 portions in the federal analysis that are of concern. 37 There's kind of a recurrent theme through there that this 38 hasn't been a problem in a long time, and the fact is that 39 conditions kind of have to come together for coho --40 illegal coho fishing to become a problem. In 1998 we had a 41 situation where there was no spawn on kelp fishery in the 42 Togiak district during the herring fishery. The sockeye 43 salmon fishery was restricted in the peak of the fishery, 44 so sockeye harvest were down considerably. And then we had 45 a decent coho run at the end, and so we fished coho on 46 through August and into -- towards the end middle of 47 September. So the stage was set there with some late 48 market available, a small market, but the market stayed

49 around in the Togiak district, and so the coho fishery was

50 there operating, and there was not a lot of revenue

generated by the sockeye fishery. So that kind of set the stage, and we started getting complaints in mid August. forwarded those complaints to Fish and Wildlife Protection at that time, and then didn't hear anything for a couple of 5 weeks, and then kept commercial fishing periods going weekly, at least a couple of days a week there throughout 7 that time period. And then in early September began getting another round of complaints. We kind of thought it was taken care of by forwarding the complaint to Fish and 10 Wildlife Protection. So in early September then with more 11 complaints, again contacting Fish and Wildlife Protection, 12 finally ended up writing an emergency order closing the 13 commercial fishery due to the illegal fishing activity in 14 the subsistence fishery. There was nets being drifted down 15 the Togiak River, and then the coho were reportedly being 16 sold when the commercial period would open. So I guess, 17 you know, I look back at this regulation and found it in 18 the original subsistence regulations that were printed in 19 the first printing in 1979, so it sounds like, you know, 20 the problem was apparent to people then, and they felt like 21 they needed that regulation in place in the Togiak District 22 in 1979.

23 24

So again, some marking requirement we feel is needed. The fact that removal of both lobes of the caudal fin brings this area into line, if you will with other areas of the state as far as marking requirements is fine, and then I guess the comment in there about no other place in Bristol Bay has this marking requirement, and I guess I would point out that we haven't seen the kind of illegal fishing activity that we've seen in or reported in as we've seen in the Togiak District, so there's a reason for that marking requirement.

34 35

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council 36 members? Yea, Robin?

37 38

MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. 39 Chairman. Jim, where were these complaints predominantly 40 coming from?

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MR. BROWNING: They were pretty widespread, 43 Robin. Initially it was sport fishing lodges reporting it, 44 but I had two or three calls from residents of Togiak. One 45 was a gentleman that was associated with Togiak Traders, 46 the store, and he reported that he was seeing these fish, 47 you know, show up at the buying station. It was not just, 48 you know, isolated reports from questionable sources. It 49 was pretty wide spread, the reports that we got from 50 various I guess facets of the fishery, including local

residents, so we took it pretty seriously.

3 Council members? 5 situation in Togiak, because right here in the Naknek River you have, you know, ten fathoms of subsistence net and you 7 can catch four, five, 600 fish, and we know for a fact that people take the subsistence fish and sell it right here to

9 Cook Inlet Salmon or Ocean Beauty, any place else. 10 just take it and put under somebody else's permit and it's 11 sold. However, that never shut down Bristol Bay. But they 12 did one time. I was going into Anchorage and flying lower

13 Talarik, and we had ADF&G on and that's automatic 14 directional finder, we listen to, you know, music because

Good.

15 you're totally bored with everything else going on, and 16 they closed down the Naknek system, Kvichak, because these 17 guys were fishing so far out of bounds. And apparently,

18 you know, Protection goes away at a certain date and you 19 never see them any more, and so everybody else had to shut

20 down the fishery. And I'm not so sure that -- it's 21 interesting anyway. I realize it might take a lot of

22 enforcement to handle that, but it's an interesting system. 23 I appreciate you mention these comments, because it has

24 been more educational for us now to deal with this issue. 25

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36 37

38 Okay. 40 Anything else, Council members? Yeah, Robin? 41

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MR. BROWNING: Well, Robin, I guess my 49 comment to that would be I have no direct knowledge and nor 50 have I received any reports of any of this happening in

MR. BROWNING:

27 respond to that briefly, I had the opportunity to speak 28 with Protection this morning. I dropped into their office 29 before heading over here. This is the local Fish and 30 Wildlife Protection officers, and their comment was we may 31 not have the marking requirement in place anywhere else 32 currently, but that's not to say that they wouldn't like to 33 see it come into existence in other areas. As they

Mr. Chairman, if I might

34 recognize it, there is a problem with subsistence-caught 35 fish entering the commercial market in other areas.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions,

Jim, this is not necessarily an isolated

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In a lot of areas, yeah. Thank you. I just want to make sure we got 39 that on record, because it's not an isolated case.

> MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. We're -- this

43 proposal only speaks to the Togiak River. Do you have any 44 indications, Jim, that this activity is taking place in 45 Kulukak or Osviuk or any of them other river systems that 46 are associated with the Togiak District?

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those other areas. I certainly defer to Pete's local knowledge and experience in the district. However, market is a big issue here, and availability of the market determines where and when this illegal fishing activity can take place. And generally, you know, we're -- we had a weekly fishing schedule in this district where you're 7 opening Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. and fishing until Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. It's a known. You know, you know when the buying station's going to be open. You 10 know when they're going to be there. And if you want, you 11 know, you were able to go out Saturday night or Sunday 12 night and catch the fish and be able to be a the buying 13 station that Monday morning with the fish. So if you were 14 in Kulukak and had to make that run from Kulukak, the -- by 15 that time of the year they're not putting any tenders down 16 at Kulukak, they're not putting any tenders down at Osviak. 17 So the only buying station would be right there, you know, 18 in the bay, close to the Village of Togiak. So that would 19 determine a lot of where the activity could take place? 20

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Does that satisfy your 22 question? Pete?

MR. ABRAHAM: You know, in Togiak there's a 25 lot of skiffs, a lot of skiffs over there that, you know, 26 travels quite a bit, you know, 35 knots or so. Well, I 27 know, because I live there, you know, they go back and 28 forth between Osviak and Kulukak, you know, during the coho 29 season. I mean, sometimes Kulukak has more cohos than 30 Togiak Bay. And sometimes Osviak has more. You know, 31 there's activity all the way around that's depending on the 32 weather situation.

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, Counsel 35 members? Thank you very much, Jim. 36

> MR. BROWNING: Thank you.

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll take the written 40 comments, summary of written comment at this time. We'll 41 have public comment after that, and then we'll take a break 42 and come back and act on the proposal. Who's handling the 43 written comments? Jeff -- I mean, Cliff?

45 Mr. Chair, there weren't any MR. EDENSHAW: 46 written or submitted public comments regarding this 47 proposal.

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And so we're down 50 to opening the floor for public comment. Any member of the

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public who would like to comment on this? Yes?

MR. NICHOLSON: For the record my name is Hans Nicholson. I work for BBNA Natural Resources Subsistence Department. I've been following the discussion concerning the proposal, Proposal 12. Initially the proposal asked to change the marking requirement from removal of the head to removal of the caudal fin. I handed Cliff a printout on the anatomy of fish there. It shows 10 the caudal fin. It's the tail.

11 12

Initially the proposal was submitted by someone 13 other than myself. I don't think the -- I don't think the 14 request is unreasonable. The question, or the issue of 15 illegal fishing activities came up, but I think there are 16 ways to address those. You know, Robin brought up, you 17 know, maybe there's been some illegal activities in the 18 Kulukak section, you know. Perhaps there has been. 19 not. But we all admit that there definitely is a need to 20 identify or separate commercial fish from the subsistence 21 fish.

22 23

I myself prefer to keep my fish whole when I'm 24 transporting it home, you know. You've already heard the 25 argument about the contamination, the quality of fish. 26 think it would be appropriate for this Board to address 27 include the other areas of the Kulukak -- not the Kulukak, 28 but the Togiak Districts in this proposal. You know, you 29 have that authority to make those changes.

30 31

But, you know, the Board of Fish didn't totally 32 discount this proposal, because it was also submitted to 33 them, and they took the October 29 -- I mean, September 29 34 to October 1 work session in Anchorage. And they didn't 35 think it was that far out of line, and what they decided to 36 do with it is they decided to do a board generated 37 proposal, it will be listed as Proposal A, submitted by the 38 Board of Fish, that will be taken up in January. So, you 39 know, it is a concern.

40

41 The report is that there has not been any 42 violations the past five years, you know, which could lead 43 to our assumption that possibly there is no further illegal The other assumption could be that there is 44 activities. 45 not enough protection over there, you know, addressing this 46 issue. But the primary reason of the proposal is to 47 address the quality of the subsistence food that these 48 people are eating. You know, I guess the end result of my 49 discussion here is just I don't have a problem with 50 changing the marking requirement. WE all acknowledge that

00038 there is -- there should be a marking requirement. Number 2, you know, we've got to be thinking about the quality of fish that these people are eating. So I'll keep my comments short, and I guess if you have any questions, I'll 5 try to answer them. 6 7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hans, who are you 8 representing? You work for BBNA? 9 10 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah, I work for BBNA. 11 12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's what you're 13 testifying for now? 14 15 MR. NICHOLSON: Yeah. 16 17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. 18 19 MR. NICHOLSON: The proposal was submitted 20 by my predecessor. It went to the RAC here last March, and 21 your recommendation was present it to the Board of Fish, 22 the State Board of Fish, and then at the same time I guess, 23 it was -- it would come up for reconsideration here again. 24 25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. 26 27 MR. NICHOLSON: And apparently it will be 28 reconsidered at the winter meeting in December before the 29 regional advisory..... 30 31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay. Do you 32 have any questions, Council members? 33 34 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman? 35 36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Pete? 37 38 MR. ABRAHAM: Yesterday I was offended very 39 deeply from Chignik. Anthony Gregory (ph) said fish in 40 Bristol Bay taste like mud. 41 42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But he sure ate that fish 43 good though I noticed. That had nothing to do with Togiak 44 by the way. Maybe there will be somebody else here today 45 testifying from Togiak, Hans, you know, but in case they 46 don't, I'd kind of like to know how Togiak feels about this 47 as well as maybe there's a BBNA connection, since it was 48 native association, is that nonprofit arm that goes there. 49 Have you had any public hearings in Togiak on this, or have 50 you had any feedback from the people in Togiak? And maybe

00039 Pete might know, too. 3 MR. NICHOLSON: I haven't heard any feedback from there. It's kind of been a low priority. don't think from what I've heard comments in passing is 5 that, you know, nobody really paid attention to the 7 requirement to remove the head. 8 9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay. 10 11 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I think none of 12 this over here, this beheading, you know, coho thing over 13 here, has never been mentioned over in Togiak. I never --14 I mean, I haven't heard it over there. Was it discussed 15 over in Togiak, Mr. Parker? 16 17 Mr. Chairman, when Hans is MR. PARKER: 18 done, I go up and make a comment. 19 20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. 21 Anything else, Hans? 22 23 MR. NICHOLSON: No, that would be it. 24 25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you very 26 much. Appreciate that. Okay. 27 28 MR. NICHOLSON: Thank you. 29 30 MR. PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I'm John Parker, 31 Togiak Advisory Committee, and as far as the committee is 32 concerned, we have never addressed this issue at any 33 meetings. I don't want to say it's a low priority, but it 34 just -- we -- actually that's what it is. We have higher 35 priorities a lot of time, and it's never come up on our 36 agenda. I believe it's more of an enforcement problem than 37 anything. In the old days we had quite good silver runs 38 and we had markets that stayed late into the season, and so 39 that kind of gives you a pretty good opportunity to, you 40 know, to make illegal fishing more easier. You know, as 41 far as like this season, the markets pulled out early. 42 Everybody has gone, so there's not a problem with it. 43 far as the people going up on the river and cutting the 44 heads off, I have never seen it done myself there, so I --45 you know, and I -- to be honest with you, I haven't done it 46 either. I guess I shouldn't say that, but it's -- like Mr. 47 Browning said, it's an enforcement problem, and I think 48 maybe, you know, I won't speak for the committee until, you 49 know, I -- but I can put it on our agenda, and, you know, 50 we can talk about it. I -- that -- in my opinion, the

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  markings a good idea, but I think it's -- I -- you know, I
  reemphasize that it's an enforcement problem, and maybe,
  you know, we need to address it more with -- in that issue
  as far as maybe bringing some law enforcement over.
  realize there's limited funding to do that, but I think the
  people at Togiak are, you know, trying to be honest about
  the situation as far as, you know, if people are poaching
  on the river, you know, they will call enforcement just
  because they don't want to -- everybody to have a bad name,
10 you know, so.....
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12
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. And you're on
13 the Togiak state advisory committee?
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                   MR. PARKER: Yes, vice chair.
16
17
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
                                            I see.
18 Togiak have a separate advisory committee from Nushagak
19 area?
20
21
                   MR. ABRAHAM:
                                 Yes.
22
23
                   MR. PARKER: Yes.
24
25
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Always learning.
26
27
                   MR. PARKER: We have one member from Twin
28 Hills and one member from Manokotak.
29
30
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Oh, good. Okay. Good.
31 Any questions, Council members? Well, thank you,....
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33
                   MR. PARKER: You're welcome.
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35
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     .....John, we appreciate
36 it. Any further public comment?
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38
                   MR. KRIEG:
                               Ted Krieg, Subsistence
39 Division, Fish & Game. And Ralph, my former boss, just
40 asked me to clarify as much as I could because.....
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42
                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Still working for him?
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                   MR. KRIEG: Well, because I was the one
45 that put in the proposal, and this issue first came about
46 at -- I think they were calling them the advanced notice
47 meetings for the fisheries -- you know, assumption of
48 federal fisheries management and there was a meeting in
49 Togiak, and this came up, and for the same reasons that
50 you've heard already is that everybody kind of wondered why
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-- I mean, nobody did cut off the heads, so they wondered why this regulation was in there. And then along with that discussion, somebody, and it should be in the Fish and Wildlife Service minutes or records for that meeting, but somebody from Togiak, you know, brought up the point that if you cut off the head, there's potential for 7 contamination. And so the whole gist of that meeting as I understood it was to kind of weed out these types of things, and it was sort of a procedural thing, so, you 10 know, at that point, that's how the -- you know, the 11 proposal came about. And at -- you know, initially I was 12 kind of confused about how this was all going to work, and 13 I thought it was something that was going to be taken care 14 of through another direction and not as a proposal, but 15 when it came down to the proposals were -- or the -- well, 16 yeah, proposal came out and it was like, well, did -- you 17 know, I asked, you know, why wasn't something in there 18 already, and they said, well, it needs to come in as a 19 proposal, so if that helps or confuses or whatever, that's 20 how it came about. But it came, you know, from this 21 meeting that took place in Togiak and local residents 22 there.

23 24

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. Okay. Any 25 questions, Council members?

26 27

MR. KRIEG: And it was -- you know, it was 28 subsistence permit. I mean, that was strictly the point, 29 is that it -- you know, it was contaminating fish if it --30 you know, the heads were removed, so that was the point of 31 the proposal.

32 33

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Thank you 34 very much. We'll take a ten-minute break at this time. 35 Come back and then the Council can act on the proposal.

36 37

(Off record - 2:25 p.m.)

(On record - 2:37 p.m.)

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CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We will -- we're 42 back on record, and we'd like to ask you if you would take 43 your seats, please, so we can continue on with the Council 44 business here. We've gone through all the steps that we 45 need to to address this particular proposal. At this time 46 I'd like to ask the direction that the Council would like 47 to take on this proposal?

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MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman?

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                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robin.
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                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
   I'd like to make a motion, that motion would be in the
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   Togiak section, which is described as all waters from Cape
   Pierce to Cape Constantine, you may also take salmon by
   spear, and no person may possess coho salmon taken under
  the authority of a subsistence fishing permit unless the
   caudal fin or dorsal -- and/or dorsal fin have been removed
10 from the salmon.
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12
                   MR. ABRAHAM: I second the motion.
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14
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Would you
15 like to speak to your motion, Robin?
16
17
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has given us
19 testimony that as late as 1998 they experienced abuses in
20 this fishery, and had to take, I call it evasive action,
21 which is closing down the fishery. I was kind of leaning
22 towards just doing away with this regulation completely, I
23 think that in order to -- that it needs to stand in place
24 for a while. I'm surely not accusing that all Togiakers
25 are illegal subsistence fishermen, but I do think that
26 there's few fishermen over there that old habits are hard
27 to break, as indicated by the action taken by Fish and Game
28 in 1998. I think asking Togiak subsistence users to remove
29 the head is a step too far. From my own subsistence
30 experiences, when we put up our fish, my wife likes the
31 fish to firm up, and soak over night. They get nice and
32 firm and are easier to manage when you're cutting them up.
33 So I think the -- and I agree with what the testimony of
34 BBNA that removing the head will possibly cause
35 contamination of the gill section, and that's a nice meaty
36 part that we like to salt in subsistence. So I think this
37 would address the concerns of Fish and Game, as well as not
38 being too burdensome to the subsistence users in the Togiak
39 area.
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CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other 42 discussion, Council members? Yeah, Robert.

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MR. HEYANO: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I was 45 wondering if the maker of the motion would entertain a 46 friendly amendment to have the motion read both lobes of 47 the caudal fin or dorsal fin have been immed -- and insert 48 the word immediately.

MR. SAMUELSEN: I'll accept it as a

00043 friendly. 3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That's our 4 friendly amendment. Now, we need a second to that? 5 6 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think it's been seconded. 7 8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Huh? What's that? 9 10 MS. KELLY: I think it's been seconded. 11 12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. 13 14 MR. SAMUELSEN: It's been seconded. 15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any other 16 17 discussion, Council members? Call for the question. 18 19 MR. ABRAHAM: Ouestion. 20 21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor, say 22 aye. 23 24 IN UNISON: Aye. 25 26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed? 27 28 (No opposing votes.) 29 30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Now, that was --31 that takes care of the amendment, and since it's a friendly 32 amendment, takes care of the entire motion. 33 34 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes. 35 36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Cliff? 37 38 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 39 next proposal is 13, which is an overlapping proposal, and 40 Pat McClenahan will address that one. 41 42 MS. McCLENAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 43 Pat McClenahan, staff anthropologist. 44 45 This draft staff analysis combines the analysis for 46 Proposals 13 and 33. It was prepared by Pat Petrivelli, 47 staff anthropologist for Southcentral Region, and it also 48 is a cross over proposal. In other words, it was proposed 49 by another region. 50

Proposal 13, submitted by Ninilchik Traditional Council, Steven Vanek and Fred H. Bahr, requests a positive customary and traditional use determination for all fish and all shellfish in the Cook Inlet area for residents of the Kenai Peninsula District. The Ninilchik Tribal Council also requested that the taking and use of fish and shellfish during all periods of seasonal presence be allowed.

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7

Proposal 33 was submitted by Henry Kroll, and it 11 requests a positive customary and traditional use 12 determination for herring, crabs, smelt, whitefish, razor 13 clams, and salmon in Tuxedni Bay for residents of the bay 14 only. There are maps on pages 18 and 19 of the book that 15 show these areas. And also in your fisheries regulation 16 book, on page 34, map 11, shows the area.

17 18

This analysis addresses both of these proposals. 19 The management area is the Cook Inlet Management area. 20 These proposals also request open season dates and harvest 21 methods. However, it's not our usual procedure to 22 entertain both customary and traditional use proposals and 23 methods and means proposals at the same time, so the c&t 24 will be taken up today, and the other will be addressed for 25 season and harvest in a later meeting.

26 27

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In a later meeting?

28 29

MS. McCLENAHAN: I'm sorry. Will be taken 30 care of during the next federal fish proposal cycle.

31 32

Perhaps this is a good time to mention that because 33 of the Kenai rural determination request for 34 reconsideration, the Federal Subsistence Board will not be 35 taking this up at the upcoming meeting, because the --36 there's no determine on the request -- determination on the 37 request for reconsideration yet.

38 39

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else?

40

41 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, a lot else. 42 sorry. This is a pretty long one. Please look at page 16. 43 You will see the existing regulation for the Cook Inlet 44 area, and you'll see the proposed regulation. And so the 45 change would read, Cook Inlet Area, all fish, residents of 46 the Kenai Peninsula District, communities that border Cook 47 Inlet, Ninilchik. Tuxedni Bay, herring, smelt, whitefish 48 and salmon, residents of Tuxedni Bay. Cook Inlet area, all 49 shellfish, residents of the Kenai Peninsula District. 50 Communities that border Cook Inlet. Ninilchik.

Bay, crab and razor clams, residents of Tuxedni Bay. The taking and use of fish and shellfish during all periods of seasonal presence of such species is allowed by residents of the Kenai Peninsula District.

At this time, this analysis will be limited strictly to salmon. We're not going to take up shellfish today, because of the number of communities that are involved. And as it is, this is a pretty long analysis.

The current federal regulations for fisheries do
12 not allow for subsistence taking of salmon, dolly varden,
13 trout, char, grayling and burbot for customary or
14 traditional use in the Cook Inlet area. Salmon is
15 recognized as a primary resource for the affected users and
16 is a resource whose use has been well documented. The Cook
17 Inlet area, which is map one, includes portions of Lake
18 Clark National Park, and Tuxedni Bay is within the Cook
19 Inlet area. It consists of the federal waters of Tuxedni
20 Subunit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge,
21 which surrounds Chisik Island, and federal waters within
22 the exterior boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and
23 Preserve and Tuxedni Bay. And you can refer map number 2,
24 which shows you the Tuxedni Bay area.

National Park Service regulations identify
qualified rural -- I'm sorry, qualified local rural
subsistence users within national parks by identifying
resident zone communities, and by identifying and issuing
subsistence eligibility permits. The resident zone
communities for Lake Clark are Iliamna, Lime Village,
Newhalen, Nondalton, Pedro Bay and Port Allsworth. None of
these communities are in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Map
three on page 22 shows you the Kenai Peninsula Borough
communities and their physical relationship, if you will,
to the Central District, which is the district I think that
you'll be most interested in here.

In current state regulations there are subsistence 40 and personal use fisheries for stocks identified in table 41 three. Table three is on page 24.

When we do a customary and traditional use 44 analysis, we rely on eight factors for determining 45 customary and traditional uses. Of greatest interest to 46 the councils has been factor one and factor four, which 47 I'll go over with you now.

Factor one, a long term consistent pattern of use, so excluding interruptions beyond the control of the community

or area. For the contemporary period -- well, actually salmon have been used by the residents of the Kenai Peninsula consistently through prehistoric, historic, and modern time periods for the -- for subsistence, personal use, commercial and sport use. The historic and prehistoric use of salmon in that area is based in three traditions: The Dena'ina, the Alutiiq, and early homesteading. While the evidence for long term use of salmon in the area is good, data about subsistence use areas for specific groups are poor or lacking.

11 12

Tuxedni Bay. Out of the core of subsistence users 13 in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, an even smaller core of 14 these users have regularly used the Tuxedni Bay for 15 subsistence salmon. According to the proposer, Mr. Kroll, 16 the residents of the bay, two or three families, have 17 consistently used the resource. According to a random 18 telephone survey of 406 Borough residents that was done in 19 1991, 129 or 32 percent had visited or used the west side 20 of Cook Inlet. Of these users, 52.7 percent fished for 21 salmon in the area, and of these, less than five percent 22 were subsistence users. The areas visited were ranked by 23 frequency as follows: Polly Creek, 37.9 percent, Chitna 24 Bay, 25 percent, Tuxedni Bay, 20.5 percent, unspecified 25 west side, 15.2 percent, Chisik Island, 10.6 percent, 26 Silver Salmon Creek, 9.1 percent, Crescent River, 2.3 27 percent, and Clam Cove and Spring Point, .8 percent. The 28 mean number of years of use for the total area was 6.51 and 29 the maximum number of years use was 36. The majority were 30 recreational users.

31 32

The preliminary staff conclusion is to support the proposal for positive customary and traditional use of salmon for the residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough with modification to defer consideration of other non-salmon fish and shellfish to a later date. And on page 36 you'll see the proposed modifications. Cook Inlet area, sederal public lands and water in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, salmon, residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, no federal season. And I'd like to particularly point out that this is all rural residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough would be included in this.

43

Justification. The residents of the Kenai 45 Peninsula Borough have consistently harvested salmon 46 throughout the known occupation of the lands within the 47 Borough. In historic times, this harvest has occurred 48 under subsistence, personal use, commercial or sport 49 allocations. The diversity of use ranges from little of --50 little use of salmon to a large dependence where a core

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00047
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group with significant use exists in all communities. The core groups of users are throughout the Borough. These users have been recognized through noncommercial, nonrecreational subsistence or personal use classifications over the past 50 years. When the State Board of Fisheries declared the Kenai Peninsula a nonsubsistence area, they also identified a personal use fishery, and an educational fishery to try to accommodate these users. these uses should be recognized by Federal Subsistence Board as a customary and traditional use.

11 12

12 Tim Jennings may wish to add something about the 13 Kenai Borough RFR?

14 15

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Would you like him 16 to do that now if he would so desire, or do you want -- 17 okay.

18 19

MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is just 20 to give you a brief update on the status of the Kenai rural 21 determination and the request to reconsider that decision, 22 because it plays into how the Board will address this 23 proposal. There was two requests to reconsider the Kenai 24 Peninsula rural determination, one from the Safari Club and 25 some other participants, and then one from the Cooper 26 Landing Advisory Committee. There was also a letter 27 submitted by the State of Alaska, although it wasn't an 28 official request to reconsider the decision. The Federal 29 Board decided on August 15th that some of the claims 30 mentioned in the request to reconsider had merit, and they 31 wanted to reconsider their May 3rd decision, which found 32 the entire Kenai rural. And they've set out a timeline and 33 a schedule to do that, ending with a Federal Board decision 34 on the reconsideration about mid February. So in that --35 in light of that, the Board has preliminarily decided not 36 to take up this proposal 13 and 33 until after they've made 37 the decision on the Kenai reconsideration, so they would 38 not be taking this up at the December meeting when they 39 would address all the other fisheries proposals. So that 40 -- I just wanted to give you that update.

41 42

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

43 44

MR. JENNINGS: If there's any questions?

45

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Counsel members? Tim, 47 there was two requests, one from who? Some Sierra Club or 48 what's the.....

49 50

MR. JENNINGS: Safari Club International.

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00048
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Safari Club. What's the
  difference? I meant that as a question, okay? Take it
  anyway you like.
4
5
                   MR. JENNINGS: I'm not familiar with the
б
 purposes of the Safari....
7
8
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.
9
10
                   MR. JENNINGS: .....International. I think
11 -- I believe it's a sporting,....
12
13
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.
14
15
                   MR. JENNINGS: ....hunting group.
16
17
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that's kind of what
18 I had in mind. The other one was the Cooper Landing.....
19
20
                   MR. JENNINGS: Cooper Landing.....
21
22
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....Advisory?
23
24
                   MR. JENNINGS: Fish and Game Advisory
25 Committee.
26
27
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: State of Alaska,
28 Department of Fish and Game.
29
30
                   MR. JENNINGS: State committee, correct.
31
32
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Okay. Good.
33 Appreciate that a lot. Okay.
34
35
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chair?
36
37
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions? Yeah,
38 Robin.
39
40
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. Currently -- or
41 prior to the Federal Subsistence Board's ruling in the Cook
42 Inlet area, it's my understanding that Seldovia, Port
43 Graham, English Bay, them southern, right at the southern 44 tip, they had a c&t finding both under the state's
45 regulation, and under Title VIII of ANILCA. Is that
46 correct?
47
48
                   MR. JENNINGS: In terms of salmon I don't
49 -- in fresh water, as I understand the staff analysis, is
50 that in fresh waters on federal lands, this would be the
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00049 first c&t, federal waters under the recent assumption of fisheries. So the prior c&t would have been in regards to wildlife. And then we adopted the State of Alaska c&t for fish when we adopted the fisheries regulations last --5 well, when they were implemented last October. 6 7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, maybe I could rephrase my question then. Those three villages right at the tip of the Kenai Peninsula, they had a rural 10 designation prior to the Federal Subsistence Board's ruling 11 under the state regulations and ANILCA criteria, and it's 12 those communities that are north of there that received the 13 c&t determination from the -- or.... 14 15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Federal rule. 16 17 MR. SAMUELSEN:a rural designation 18 under.... 19 20 MR. JENNINGS: A rural, okay. Yeah. 21 understand now. You're correct, the prior rural 22 designation on the Kenai included Seldovia, Port Graham, 23 English Bay or Nanwalek, and then I believe Cooper Landing, 24 and I think parts of -- there is a Ninilchik area as well. 25 26 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. With those 27 communities prior to the Federal Subsistence Board ruling 28 that had a rural determination, did they have c&t on any 29 fish stocks? 30 31 MR. JENNINGS: As I understand it, on those 32 that were adopted through us adopting the state 33 regulations. And my understanding was the state did not 34 have any c&t for salmon in fresh waters. And maybe there's 35 somebody here from the state that could clarify that. 36 37 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Okay. Thank you. 38 39 MR. JENNINGS: As I understand the staff 40 analysis, there was no subsistence fishing on the Kenai 41 Peninsula in fresh waters under state management since 42 about statehood time period. There's been personal use 43 fisheries and educational permit fisheries. 44 45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Counsel members, any 46 questions? One more question. Since this is an 47 overlapping proposal, in other words, it goes over into 48 Lake Clark which is our area, they're not going to split 49 this proposal down into having us deal with our section, 50 and letting Cook Inlet remain separate until February, so

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   it's going to remain as one proposal?
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                   MR. JENNINGS:
                                  That's the current approach,
4
  Mr. Chair.
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6
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     But -- yeah, but there's
7
   no reason why we can't make a recommendation on what we
   want to do on this, right,....
8
9
10
                   MR. JENNINGS:
                                  That's correct,....
11
12
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....'cause that's the
13 federal board's.....
14
15
                   MR. JENNINGS: .....Mr. Chair.
16
17
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
                                            Good.
18
19
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Robert.
20
21
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robert?
22
23
                   MR. HEYANO: Well, if I understood, the
24 Federal Subsistence Board isn't going to be taking any
25 action on this -- on these two proposals until they make a
26 determination if they're going to reconsider?
27
28
                   MR. JENNINGS: Until they make the final
29 decision on the reconsideration. They've already decided
30 to reconsider the Kenai rural determination.
                                                 They made
31 that decision in August. And then they will -- we are
32 currently preparing a staff analysis in regards to the
33 claims that were made under the reconsideration, and we
34 will take that to the Southcentral Council, to a public
35 meeting, and then Southcentral Council recommendations,
36 public testimony to a Board meeting approximately in mid
37 February, and that's when the Board plans to make a
38 decision on the reconsideration, on the merits of the
39 reconsideration. They could uphold their May 3rd decision
40 to find the entire Kenai rural, or they could go back to
41 the rural determination that they had prior to May 3rd,
42 which designated I think the communities that Mr. Samuelsen
43 had mentioned, or they could perhaps go somewhere else in
44 between. And they have -- you're correct in that they
45 currently will not take up this proposal until after
46 they've made that final rural determination in February.
47
48
                   MR. HEYANO: So when is the likelihood of
49 the Federal Subsistence Board dealing with these two
50 proposals?
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MR. JENNINGS: Well, there's various

scenarios that have been discussed. It somewhat depends

upon the outcome of their rural determination decision.

The current analysis is written to address all Kenai

Peninsula residents, because they're currently under

regulation as rural. If the Board rolls back or changes

that decision, then we believe there's a need to go back

and to revisit the staff analysis and refocus it, which

would add some time into the process. There's been no

specific timing beyond May -- or February 15th in terms of

when the Board would take this up, because we're not sure

about the outcome and how it will play out.

MR. HEYANO: Well, Mr. Chairman, if there's 15 an opportunity for us to address these proposals after the 16 Federal Subsistence Board has made their determinations, I 17 think that would be a more appropriate time.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Public comment, too.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we have public

24 comment. Yeah.

MR. HEYANO: And I have one other.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure. Go ahead.

MR. HEYANO: Some place in here I read 31 where the Federal Subsistence Board is in the process of 32 contracting out to get some reporting back as to rural and 33 nonrural designations for them to work with. Is there 34 going to be an opportunity in this agenda to ask questions 35 to that specific item?

MR. JENNINGS: Yes, sir, we have.....

MR. HEYANO: Okay.

MR. JENNINGS:Mr. Heyano, we have -- 42 that's on the agenda later on under agency reports. We 43 have a report on the statewide rural determination process. 44 Then we'll cover that.

MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else? Tim, what 49 was the name of the organization, the first one, that 50 requested that they go back and reconsider? What's the

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00052
  name of that club?
                   MR. JENNINGS: Safari Club International,
3
  and then I believe there's the Alaska chapter, and there
5
  may also be a Kenai Peninsula Chapter.
6
7
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Is Senator Murkowski a
8
  member of that club, do you know? Or you don't want to
9
  address that?
10
11
                   MR. JENNINGS: I don't know. I don't know
12 if he is or not.
13
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Nothing much to do with
14
15 the meeting anyway. Anything else, Council members? Okay.
16 Thank you very much.
17
                   MR. JENNINGS:
18
                                  Okay. Mr. Chair, and at the
19 time that it's appropriate, we can report how the
20 Southcentral Council dealt with this when they've already
21 met and discussed this proposal.
22
23
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, they've already --
24 okay. Did they act on it, might we ask, or not?
25
26
                   MR. JENNINGS: Yes, they did.
27
28
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     They did? Okay.
                                                       All
29 right.
30
31
                   MR. JENNINGS:
                                  I can give you the -- well,
32 I'll wait until the appropriate time in the agenda, and I
33 can tell you what they did, or Cliff can.
34
35
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay. Deb Leggitt, did
36 you want to make a comment here since.....
37
38
                   MS. LEGGITT: National Park Service has
39 comments. I don't know, does ADF&G have comments, or do
40 you want to go first on the agenda?
41
42
                   MR. BROWNING: There's nobody here from
43 that region, I mean, that area, so.....
44
45
                                     Okay. All right.
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
46
47
                   MS. LEGGITT: Mr. Chair, Counsel members,
48 nice to be here as always. Deb Leggitt, National Park
49 Service.
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7

I wanted to talk with the Council today kind of about my, as superintendent of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, about our concern, our broad policy concerns, regarding these two proposals. And let me preface my remarks by saying that there is no question I think in the minds of most people in this room, that there are indeed legitimate subsistence users on the Kenai Peninsula. would urge the Council today to consider tabling this until the revisit of the Kenai rural decision, and until you've 10 had ample opportunity to consult with the Lake Clark 11 Subsistence Resource Council and the potential impacts of 12 the Kenai rural decision, and these two proposals on Lake 13 Clark National Park and Preserve and the subsistence users 14 and subsistence resource there.

15 16

We met with the Lake Clark SRC last week. 17 the first opportunity they'd had to look at these two 18 proposals as they had been meshed by staff. 19 proposals are -- were dramatically different in nature. 20 Hank Kroll's proposal dealt specifically with residents of 21 Tuxedni Bay, and it was, as it was originally written, I 22 just told some folks it included everything stopping just 23 short of edible rocks and trees, and everything from tide 24 land to upland. Proposal 13 originally dealt with just 25 villages along Cook Inlet. But when the proposals are 26 meshed, it suddenly becomes the entire Kenai Borough for 27 salmon.

28 29

And I'm concerned that we're painting with too 30 broad a brush. The worst case scenario is that there are 31 users in Seward who could legitimately access the 32 subsistence resource in Lake Clark National Park. 33 unlikely that that would be the case, but when we paint 34 with that broad a brush -- I noticed when you were elected 35 -- re-elected chair, you and the vice chair, no one handed 36 you a crystal ball. And.....

37 38

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, you didn't see that?

39 40

MS. LEGGITT: I didn't see that. If you 41 got one, and if you have one to loan, I would appreciate And so this is the first chance that we've had to look 43 at any proposals, at any proposals specifically related to 44 Kenai rural. And it does cross boundaries. And the 45 conversation that Andrew and Glenn Allsworth and I had last 46 week was about unintended consequences, and because my 47 crystal ball doesn't look very far down the road, I would 48 urge this council, and I would urge you to counsel the 49 Federal Board to take small steps, to be very judicious in 50 your actions as we test the water on this issue.

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I think if we paint with too broad a brush, we actually put at risk the legitimate subsistence users. know, how many subsistence users are there really on the Kenai Peninsula, and how many would have access.

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C&T is, of course, just one piece of the equation. We're aware of that, that seasons and bag limits, you know, are another level, but the National Park's concern is that we proceed carefully as we look at this, and potentially it 10 will become a non issue.

11 12

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions of Deb 13 Leggitt? Okay. Of course, on other -- looking at it from 14 the other view, too, is if we did act on it, it would lead 15 to some credibility of keeping a rural preference for the 16 Kenai area such as the Federal Board has already done. 17 that's what I was thinking of earlier. But I appreciate 18 your comments, they were good. Thank you very much.

19 20

Where are we at, Cliff?

21 22

MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chairman, in lieu of --23 if you look on page 47, the Alaska Department of Fish and 24 Game submitted some written comments regarding Proposal 13 25 and 33. I'll just defer to those. And then if you turn 26 over to page 48, we'll go ahead and bypass ADF&G comments, 27 since there isn't anyone here to provide those, and if you 28 look on pages 48 and 49, there were six written comments, 29 and five of those opposed providing a positive c&t for 30 those and one supports.

31 32

Pardon, what's the CHAIRMAN O'HARA:

33 number?

34 35

MR. EDENSHAW: Pardon?

CHAIRMAN O'HARA:

36 37

38 again?

39 40

MR. EDENSHAW: That's on page 48 and

What was the number

41 49....

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How many for and how many

44 against?

45

46 MR. EDENSHAW:of the JAF (ph) staff

47 analysis,....

48 49

CHAIRMAN O'HARA:

MR. EDENSHAW:and those are written and public comments regarding Proposals 13 and 33. And they specifically state in there each proposal they're addressing. And that concludes the written and public comments, Mr. Chair.

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you. Any 8 questions or comments, Council members? We're back then 9 public comments from any members -- since there's no ADF&G, 10 are there any public comment that we -- anyone wants to 11 make on this? Yes, Ted?

MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg, Subsistence
14 Division, Fish and Game. I do have -- I'd better read this
15 to make sure I'm doing it right. Yeah, since revised, our
16 comments based on review of the draft proposal analysis and
17 federal staff recommendations as to the action that should
18 be taken on the proposals. And that's referring to
19 Proposals 13 and 33. So this is revised comments from
20 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

These proposals request a positive c&t finding for all fish and shellfish in the Cook Inlet Area for Kenai Peninsula District residents. The State supports the preliminary staff recommendation to limit the c&t finding to salmon only, and to defer consideration of the other species until a later time. The State asked that information on the eight factors focus on areas requesting positive c&t determinations.

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. And, Ted, who 32 are you representing today?

MR. KRIEG: Fish and Game.

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Fish and Game. Alaska 37 Department of Fish and Game, yeah. Yeah. We're used to 38 seeing you on the other side, too. That's fine, I just 39 wanted to clarify.

MR. KRIEG: Right. And these were sent 42 from Terry Haynes, who's -- I'm not sure of his official 43 title, but he coordinates the comments that come out from 44 Fish and Game on federal proposals.

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Do we have 47 any other public comments on the proposal before us today 48 on the floor? Okay. Hearing none, what's the concerns or 49 interest of the Council? Yeah, Robin?

MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. move that at this time we take no action and that we wait until the reconsideration process is taken by the Federal Subsistence Board to define the Cook Inlet area either urban or rural, and that this proposal be brought back to us either in our spring meeting or in our fall meeting next year....

7 8 9

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MR. HEYANO: Second.

10 11

MR. SAMUELSEN:for consideration.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And there's a second to 14 the motion. Did you want to address your motion?

15 16

MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, thank you, Mr. 17 Chairman. I don't believe that 60,000 residents of the 18 Kenai are all subsistence users in my heart. When the 19 McDowell I passed, all Alaskans became subsistence users, 20 and as a resident of Dillingham and a subsistence user in 21 -- where I gather most of my subsistence in the Nushagak 22 River, with the all Alaskan principle, or the all Alaskan 23 subsistence user now I'm seeing guided moose hunts and 24 subsistence hunts by nonresidents in the Nushagak River. 25 The resource can only stand so much pressure. This is a 26 political hot tomato, the Cook Inlet area. The hottest in 27 the State of Alaska, and you're correct, Mr. Chairman, 28 Frank Murkowski also wrote a letter objecting to the rural 29 designation in this area, and I don't think it's good to 30 get out of -- get out in front of the Federal Subsistence 31 Board as a RAC, and, you know, they made a decision that it

32 was rural, and took a lot of heat for it, and then decided 33 to reconsider, and I think we should just wait and see if 34 they reconsider or the new information keeps it rural.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other Council 37 members who would like to comment? Robert?

38 39

35 36

MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm going 40 to vote in favor of the motion. I think it was just 41 brought to our attention that the Lake Clark Subsistence 42 Resource Council has some serious concerns about these two 43 proposals, and I think it's only appropriate that before we 44 act that we see what they recommend to us.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. I guess since the 47 SRC which is your -- the recommendation from the Lake 48 Iliamna country has been so recent, they really haven't 49 given us anything yet to -- so it probably would be prudent 50 to do that. Any other concerns, Council members?

00057 a motion on the floor. 3 MR. HEYANO: Question. 4 5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Call for the question. 6 All those in favor say aye? 7 8 IN UNISON: Aye. 9 10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed? 11 12 (No opposing votes.) 13 14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That I believe 15 ends the proposals that we have today. Cliff, next? 16 17 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, under item number 18 10 is call for wildlife proposals, and we'll accept those 19 from -- we started accepted those August 18th, and those 20 will continue, an open period until October 27th. And at 21 this time, if there's anyone here from the public who so 22 chooses to come forth and put forth a proposal, a hunting 23 or trapping, harvest and bag limits, with seasons, dates, 24 this is the time. I've also included copies of the 25 proposal forms here on the table. Just a little bit of 26 housecleaning, go down to agency, I'm not sure if any of 27 the Fish and Wildlife refuges here or the Department of

I wanted to, and perhaps Dave Fisher here, our 32 biologist on the team can answer any additional questions 33 the council may have, but under C I went ahead and included 34 in the agenda deferred Proposal 98-59 regarding a moose 35 proposal in Unit 17(A), and as you all know, the Board this 36 past summer went ahead and under D, special action requests 37 00-05, which is a fall moose hunt in Unit 17(A), the Board 38 unanimously approved that moose hunt in Unit 17(A). 39 before me I don't have the -- it's the specific dates and 40 bag limits and Dave can provide that information to the

28 Fish and Game have any proposals, they may do so at this

29 time.

41 Council.

30 31

42 43

But getting back to item number C, this was a 44 deferred proposal and at last winter's meeting we addressed 45 the moose management plan that the council went ahead and 46 approved, and I -- go ahead and -- the action the council 47 may take on this is just to go ahead and for the record 48 state that they would like this proposal, deferred Proposal 49 98-59, be pushed through this regulatory cycle so that come 50 June 2001, that this will be on the books as a permanent

00058 regulation. 2 3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robert. Robin. 4 5 MR. SAMUELSEN: I just have one comment, 6 A lot of heartache, and a lot of work has Mr. Chairman. 7 been done by this committee over the special action requests of the residents of Togiak, and I would urge the Togiak Wildlife Refuge staff by the October 27th deadline, 10 if there's any proposals on moose and caribou on special 11 hunts, that they assist Togiak in submitting them proposals 12 so they could go through the process instead of taking 13 special action or emergency action requests on either moose 14 seasons or caribou seasons. 15 16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Cliff, anything 17 else? 18 19 MR. EDENSHAW: No, Dave's up here, and he 20 was going to bring..... 21 22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, sorry, Dave. 23 24 MR. EDENSHAW:you the -- some 25 information request. 26 27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Talk to us. 28 29 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Dave 30 Fisher with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage 31 office. What I'd like to do is just maybe just bring us up 32 to date on this, and maybe clarify a little bit of the 33 history on this 17(A) moose thing. 34 35 If you will recall, back in '97, the Board of Game 36 passed a regulation opening up the moose season in 17(A). 37 It had been closed for about 16, 17 years. The Federal 38 Subsistence Board followed with a special action to match 39 the state regulation, and you'll recall a special action is 40 just good for the -- for that year. The refuge followed 41 with this Proposal 98-59 to establish a permanent moose 42 hunting season to align with state regulations. 43 tabled by the Council and deferred by the Board pending 44 completion of a moose management plan. This was supposed 45 to be taken up at the last regional council and Board 46 meeting; however, Proposal 98-59 didn't appear in the 47 Federal Register when the -- at the time that statewide 48 proposals were sent out, so the public didn't get a chance 49 to review it and act -- or make comment on it, so hence it

50 was just sort of in limbo. In order to have a federal

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00059
  moose season that aligned with the state season, the
  council passed a special action and that was in place this
  last season.
5
           Now what we'd like to do is again reconsider this
6
 proposal and it will be -- appear in the books and
7
  everything so we can act on it next time.
8
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
10 members? Yeah, Robin?
11
12
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: So in short, Dave, you
13 concurred with what I just said?
14
15
                   MR. FISHER: Correct.
16
17
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   Okay.
18
19
                   MR. FISHER: I wanted to make sure that you
20 didn't have any specific questions on the -- on that.
21
22
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
23
24
                   MR. FISHER: And I think.....
25
26
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead?
27
28
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: No, that's it, Mr.
29 Chairman.
30
31
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
32
33
                   MR. FISHER: During the agency reports, the
34 refuge will probably bring us up to date on -- a little bit
35 on the 17(A) moose.
36
37
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.
                                            Thank you, Dave.
38
39
                   MR. FISHER: Thank you.
40
41
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Appreciate that. Okay,
42 Cliff, where are we at here? Do we deal with this proposal
43 now?
44
45
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: No.
46
47
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No?
                                          Okay. We've already
48 -- our action from the previous.....
49
50
                   MR. EDENSHAW: At the winter meeting when
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00060
  we....
2
3
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We -- yeah.
4
5
                   MR. EDENSHAW: .....when we met and.....
6
7
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We gave them the
  direction and the numbers and everything then. Then we'll
  follow that with that proposal. Okay. Good. We're in
10 good shape. All right. And actually this is -- this was
11 information for the public as well, as -- if there were any
12 other departments here now that wanted to come forth with
13 any proposals or public members that wanted to deal with
14 game proposals, right?
15
16
                   MR. EDENSHAW: Yes. Yes, Mr, Chair.
17
18
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yeah. I guess you
19 understand that from the audience? Okay. So if we don't
20 have any concerns along those lines, then we'll have --
21 we'll go down to agency reports.
                                    And the -- lead us on the
22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service one here.
23
24
                   MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, I have a request
25 of the Counsel regarding the agenda. Taylor Brelsford is
26 on his way out this afternoon, and if it's okay with the
27 Council, it's your pleasure, if we could defer our agency
28 report until Taylor arrives and do that first thing in the
29 morning? If you want to proceed, I can proceed, but Taylor
30 was going to cover some of these items, and I was going to
31 cover some of the others, so I'd like -- Taylor had about
32 half of these items that he was going to cover.
33
34
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you want to cover your
35 half, or do you want to wait for him?
36
37
                   MR. JENNINGS: However you'd like to handle
38 it, Mr. Chair.
39
40
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Pardon?
41
42
                   MR. JENNINGS: However you would like to
43 handle it, I can do either way.
44
45
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Then we'll probably, if
46 that's okay with the Council, we'll defer that until
47 tomorrow. And maybe for the next while here get into
48 reports from the Park Service since they're here and ready
49 to go. Would that be okay?
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00061
                   MR. JENNINGS: That would be great.
2
3
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Okay. Who's
4
  handling the....
5
6
                   MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7
8
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Thank you.
9 Who's handling the Park Service Reports?
10
11
                   MS. LEGGITT: Mr. Chair, we are, and we can
12 go at your pleasure.
13
14
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay. We're ready.
15
16
                   MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair?
17
18
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes?
19
20
                   MR. EDENSHAW: Before Deb gets started
21 here, if you'll look under item -- Tab H, that's for
22 informational purposes. It was migratory birds on number 2
23 and 3.
24
25
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Yeah.
26
27
                   MR. EDENSHAW: And....
28
29
                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible - away
30 from microphone)
31
32
                   MR. EDENSHAW:
                                 Okay.
33
34
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who's handling that?
35
36
                   MR. EDENSHAW: We'll just defer until
37 tomorrow.
38
39
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. There may not be a
40 tomorrow at the rate we're going now. You all may be going
41 home on a plane. All right. Who's going to be handling
42 this? Deb?
43
44
                   MS. LEGGITT: Mr. Chair, Deb Leggitt with
45 the National Park Service. My job's getting easier and
46 easier. I brought reinforcements.
47
48
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that's.....
49
50
                   MS. LEGGITT: And I'd like to -- I'd like
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to introduce Karen Stickman on my left who is our new subsistence coordinator for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Karen's organized the last two SRC meetings, and gets rave reviews. I only suffered some slight arm twisting by the SRC to make her a permanent appointment to the National Park Service happen. So Karen is a new addition, and if you don't already know her, you soon well.

8

On my right is Mary McBurney who has been hired for the four southwestern National Park Service areas as our subsistence coordinator. Mary is duty stationed in Anchorage, but like me she's a human yo-yo. And Mary will be in charge of both our fish and wildlife portions of the subsistence programs. And so I'll let Karen start with the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve report.

16 17

MS. STICKMAN: Thank you. Did everyone get

18 a copy?

MS. LEGGITT: Yes.

19 20

21
22
MS. STICKMAN: I'm going to review the Lake
23 Clark report. We -- the SRC subsistence regional -24 subsistence -- I'm nervous, so forgive me if I stutter a
25 little bit.

26 27

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's okay. You can do

29

28 that.

MS. STICKMAN: This fall the SRC met on 31 October 5th. Harvey Anelon is the new member on the SRC 32 Commission. They -- some of the things they did, they went 33 over and reviewed the final draft of the Lake Clark 34 Subsistence Users Guide, which was prepared by Janice 35 Meldrum. This guide will be sent to all the box holders in 36 the Lake Clark resident zone communities. The subsistence 37 staff, Mary McBurney and myself, held a workshop in Iliamna 38 on August 16th which we provided information on the 39 fisheries research and monitoring program on writing 40 preproposals.

41 42

Lake Clark registration permit hunts includes for 43 brown bear there were three permits issues, zero harvested. 44 For dall sheep, there were ten permits issues, zero 45 harvested. And there were zero permits for the potlatch 46 moose.

47

There's not a whole lot of new information to 49 submit for the sockeye salmon study Carol Ann Woody has 50 been heading, and I think she was -- gave a report at the

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00063
  last RAC meeting.
3
           And I think that's all I have to submit.
4
5
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any question, Council
6
              Karen, you had down here three -- there was a
  members?
7
   request for three brown bear permits and they didn't get a
8
  harvest of the animals?
9
10
                   MS. STICKMAN: No harvest tickets have.....
11
12
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What time.....
13
14
                   MS. STICKMAN: ....been turned in.
15
16
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What time of the year
17 were these permits? Was it a spring or fall hunt or summer
18 or do you remember?
19
20
                   MS. STICKMAN:
                                  Fall.
21
22
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Fall? This last fall?
23
24
                   MS. STICKMAN: Yeah, this fall just past.
25
26
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And then the
27 potlatch thing for moose, no -- nothing happened there
28 either. I mean, they didn't get a moose either?
29
30
                   MS. STICKMAN: No.
                                       No.
31
32
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Wow.
                                            Okay. You didn't
33 talk about whether they got any dall sheep or not?
34
35
                   MS. STICKMAN:
                                  Zero.
                                         Ten....
36
37
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, zero?
38
39
                   MS. STICKMAN: Zero harvested.
40
41
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Zero.
42
43
                   MS. STICKMAN: Yeah.
44
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. I drew a complete
45
                   Andy, you better get -- show those guys how
46 blank on that.
47 to do a little hunting up there or something. All right.
48 Okay.
49
50
                   MR. BALUTTA: Nobody hunt any more after I
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00064 quit hunting sheep. 2 3 MR. SAMUELSEN: Too much work. 4 5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: (Indiscernible) Anything 6 else, Karen? 7 8 MS. STICKMAN: No, that's it. 9 10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's it? 11 12 Thank you. MS. STICKMAN: 13 14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No questions? 15 And, Mary, are you on next or -- okay. 16 17 MS. McBURNEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair, 18 as we pass the microphone here. For the record, my name is 19 Mary McBurney, and I am the subsistence program manager for 20 the four southwest park units. 21 22 And for the Katmai National Park and Preserve, I'll 23 just give you some quick highlights which Deb will backfill 24 and provide more information on on several points that the 25 Council has requested additional information. 26 27 And first of all, I just would like to report that 28 the initial draft of the information from the oral 29 interviews that have been conducted with residents of 30 Kokhanok has been completed. Don Callaway completed his 31 first draft of that report, and it has been forwarded to 32 the residents of Kokhanok and specifically the Kokhanok 33 Village Council, and currently Don is continuing to work 34 with the council members to go through the report, to 35 review it, and edit it. And Deb will provide a little more

Following up on the fisheries research and monitoring program, the park staff also conducted a 40 workshop in King Salmon on August 15th which basically as 41 we did in Iliamna was intended to get the word out to local 42 communities and individuals that had concerns about 43 subsistence fisheries, and that would -- wanted to have 44 more information on how they could participate in the new 45 fisheries research and monitoring program. And I would 46 like to add that the -- a total of 51 preproposals were 47 ultimately submitted to the Bristol Bay -- or from the 48 Bristol Bay region to the Fisheries Information Services 49 which is really quite a generous number. And so far the 50 total of preproposals is approximately \$3.6 million, and

36 information on that momentarily.

they broke down as follows: There were 28 proposals that have been submitted for stock status and trends, for a total of approximately \$2.3 million. Fourteen proposals for the harvest monitoring program for about \$900,000. And then finally nine proposals that have been submitted for the traditional ecological knowledge for approximately \$3.6 hundred thousand. And we are anticipating that decisions will be made within the next week regarding which proposals will be invited to submit a full investigative plan. My understanding is that the Fisheries Information Services and the technical review committee have been working almost nonstop since Wednesday going through all of the preproposals, and that they will be making their determination as to which ones they would like to see go forward.

The last thing that I would just like to mention is 18 that also early on in the season, during the end of May, 19 park staff also convened a meeting of the regional 20 fisheries managers from ADF&G, Fish and Wildlife, and the 21 Park Service -- excuse me, that was on June 21st. We met 22 in King Salmon basically to share information from that May 23 31st training that some of you were able to attend in 24 Anchorage where the in-season management regime was 25 discussed. And this was a way to bring that information 26 back to the region and also share it with a lot of the 27 regional folks that didn't have the benefit of being at 28 that training.

30 So with that, that concludes my report on the 31 Katmai.

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any question, 34 Council members? A lot of requests for dollars coming 35 through that system. A tremendous amount. And that was 36 just for Katmai?

MS. McBURNEY: No.

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, I meant this report 41 that you've given us is for Katmai right now?

MS. McBURNEY: The report that I gave was 44 for Katmai; however, the preproposal information that I 45 included here is actually for Bristol Bay wide.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

MS. McBURNEY: So it's not just for the 50 Katmai Park and Preserve, but rather for the entire Bristol

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00066
   Bay region.
2
3
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that doesn't include
4
  Kodiak?
5
6
                   MS. McBURNEY:
                                  No.
7
8
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No. All right.
9
10
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chair?
11
12
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, go ahead.
13
14
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: And we'll have a chance to
15 comment next meeting about the preproposal proposals that
16 are coming in in the process later on in the meeting?
17
18
                   MS. McBURNEY:
                                 Yes, I believe Fish and
19 Wildlife Service will be providing that.
20
21
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   Okay.
22
23
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.
24 do we go from here now?
25
26
                   MS. LEGGITT:
                                 Two more parks.
27
28
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     All right. We never run
29 out of parks, do we?
30
31
                   MS. LEGGITT:
                                 Before we leave that, and I
32 think that the Council is aware of that, that this is huge
33 effort that you see unfolding before you that I don't think
34 you ever saw on wildlife is this fisheries money and going
35 into projects. And there are a lot of people in this room
36 that deserve their compliments. I mean, this has kind of
37 been a wild ride as this fishery money comes and gets
38 turned loose, and we actually have people in the field
39 doing work. And I have to say that it's been great to
40 watch the federal and state agencies and BBNA and others
41 who have really just picked up the mantle. You know, the
42 two people sitting on either side of me, to assist the
43 National Park Service in that effort, have come via that
44 funding, and you can see that, you know, we've got a lot of
45 people with good projects out there. Not all of them will
46 be funded, but people are really starting to work together,
47 and you guys get to watch and nudge and push, but I don't
48 think you saw this ten years ago with wildlife.
49
50
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There wasn't any money
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00067 ten years ago or so. 3 MS. LEGGITT: That's right. 4 5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So it's real easy what 6 didn't happen, yeah. 7 8 MS. LEGGITT: I have some brief comments on 9 They met. Donald Mike headed that the Aniakchak SRC. 10 meeting up on April 4th of 2000 to make it's 11 recommendations to you. The commission moved to support 12 roster regulations to protect the subsistence lifestyle of 13 local residents. We've certainly heard that before, and 14 I'm sure that will be a topic on the SR- -- on the chairs 15 meeting next week in Anchorage. 16 17 The SR- -- Aniakchak SRC also clarified that 18 customary trade practices should be consistent with 19 existing regulations, and that any new customary trade 20 proposals be specific to the regions and conducted only 21 between Alaska natives. We've already had conversations 22 today about that. 23 24 The Aniakchak SRC also passed motions supporting 25 the taking of furbearers using a firearm under a trapping 26 license. They approved final draft hunting recommendations 27 97-1 and 2, and supported limiting party size and drop-off 28 locations for hunting guides using the preserve. 29 30 High on Mary's list is to pick up where Donald left 31 off, and to continue to work with the Aniakchak SRC. 32 have several other things on their wish list including an 33 access study, and we will continue that effort. 34 35 For that Alagnak Wild River, I know you're -- do 36 you want to ask questions now or..... 37 38 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes, Deb. 39 40 MS. LEGGITT:do you want to wait 41 until I'm done? 42 43 MR. SAMUELSEN: I need a clarification. 44 45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead. Yeah. 46 47 MR. SAMUELSEN: Deb, support roster

What kind of regulations are the roster

48 regulations.

49 regulations?

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MS. LEGGITT: As I understand the conversation, I haven't talked specifically to the 3 Aniakchak SRC, is that's a roster regul -- a roster of subsistence users that be -- I might need Bruce or Sandy's 5 help on this, that could be used in times of shortage, to help that SRC make a decision based on available resources. The conversation that I heard last year when the National 8 Park Service met with our SRC chairs, the conversation from 9 the Denali SRC and I think the Lake Clark SRC has discussed 10 it in the past. I think folks on the subsistence resource 11 councils see a time in the future where there may be a 12 shortage of the resource, and they may have to make hard 13 decisions on how that would be distributed. And I think 14 they also understand that they're working with a federal 15 bureaucracy which moves slightly faster than glacial speed, 16 and that if there truly -- that we need to have a reg put 17 out for public comment and review because it will take 18 several years before it would hit the street in its final 19 form. And I -- after next week when the National Park 20 Service meets with its SRCs again, I'm sure that's a topic 21 on the agenda, and we'll know more about what people are 22 thinking this year. 23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's the long answer. 25 Yeah, go ahead.

MR. SAMUELSEN: So what that sentence is saying, the commission moved to support roster regulations to protect the subsistence lifestyles of local residents. I would assume that commission moved to develop and support Tier II regulations to protect the lifestyle of subsistence -- of the local -- subsistence lifestyles of the local residents? Coming up with a Tier -- a mechanism, something similar to a Tier II?

MS. LEGGITT: Something to -- similar to a 37 Tier II. Is that how you understand it, Sandy?

MR. RABINOWITCH: I would put it a little 40 different. I'm Sandy Rabinowitch with the National Park 41 Service. I'll try to keep it short, but I don't know if I 42 can.....

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, no, no, that's okay.

MR. RABINOWITCH:but I don't know if

47 I can succeed.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's okay.

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9 10

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37 38

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MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay.

MS. LEGGITT: There's no short answer.

That's fine. CHAIRMAN O'HARA:

MR. RABINOWITCH: If I can back up half a step and try to maybe refocus the picture, the roster req that we're talking about does not have anything to do with the Federal Board program. It has to do with Park Service regulations. Okay?

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Your own.

MR. RABINOWITCH: Our own agency 14 regulations. That's the first point I would make that 15 maybe will help clarify a little. With that understood, 16 the roster regulation I think was first brought up by the 17 Lake Clark SRC a number of years ago. I forget how many, 18 but a lot of years ago. It never moved very far down the 19 path. No regulation was ever put into place. Some years 20 later the Denali SRC took it up. They had some interest in 21 the idea. And they've never moved it very fully down the 22 path either. So basically nothing's really ever happened. 23 It's idea, it's been discussed in different places over

24 several years, but no action's really -- never really 25 occurred.

I think they're bringing it back. The connection 28 to shortage is that those -- the people in those areas are 29 about concerned potential resource shortages. 30 shortage, caribou shortage, you know, whatever. 31 they're looking for ways, they're exploring ways, to 32 protect the users that have been in the area a long time. 33 Okay. So I just sort of offer that as background. And I 34 think as Deb said, we think they're going to be bringing 35 that back up, that they want to kind of pick that idea back 36 up and see where we can go with it.

And all of this has to do with Park Service 39 eligibility for subsistence, which is different than all 40 other federal agencies. We have an additional layer. It's 41 -- that some see as bureaucratic, others see as a 42 protection. It depends on who you are and how you look at 43 it. But it limits, it limits the people who can hunt in 44 National Park Service areas. So again some see that as a 45 protection and others probably see it as bureaucracy, but 46 does that help?

MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

> 41 42

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00070 MS. LEGGITT: Thanks, Sandy. You don't have to go away. You never know, we might need you more. CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Robin? Robert? MR. HEYANO: I need to -- I need for you to explain why these regulations? CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Explain what, Robert? MR. HEYANO: The roster regulations are 12 going to be applied and not the Tier II criteria. I can't 13 make that connection. MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. Let me see if I 16 can help, though possibly someone from the state might want 17 to speak to Tier II. The roster -- first of all, there are 18 no roster regulations. Again I'll state that. There are 19 currently no roster regulations. Think of it as an idea, 20 okay? If a roster regulation were to come into affect, it 21 would have to go through the Park Service rule making, 22 which is similar to the Federal Board rule making, but 23 they're different people, and differences processes.

In terms of how it relates to Tier II, I don't 26 think I ought to get into that, because I don't really 27 understand it, and I don't work with it, except to say that 28 it's -- Tier II is the state, you know, state part of the 29 program. The state's program, not the federal program. 30 The Federal Board doesn't have Tier II.

I'll stop there. If you want to pursue it, please 33 do so.

MS. LEGGITT: So I think what we're trying 36 to share is that this concept, if you will, or this idea, 37 has also been discussed at the Aniakchak SRC. But it is 38 just a conversation at this point, and it would go through 39 an entire public vetting process before it took effect, if 40 it took effect.

> Yeah, Robert, go ahead. CHAIRMAN O'HARA:

MR. HEYANO: So Aniakchak has resident 45 communities exactly like Lake Clark, and these -- let me 46 get the correct wording here, roster regulations would only 47 apply to those resident communities?

MS. LEGGITT: It might depend.....

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1
                   MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, given....
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3
                   MS. LEGGITT: It might depend upon how it
4
  was written.
5
6
                                     Yeah, it depends how it
                   MR. RABINOWITCH:
7
  was written.
8
9
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
                                     I think said villages
10 like Chignik, Ugashik, Chignik, Perryville.
11
12
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Ivanoff.
13
14
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Ivanoff.
15
16
                                     Those communities that we
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
17 know that are in an area, those are all a resident
18 community within the Aniakchak Preserve?
19
20
                   MS. LEGGITT: All of them are not resident
21 zone communities. Two are missing and I can't.....
22
23
                   MR. RABINOWITCH:
                                     There's a list in my
24 briefcase.
25
26
                   MS. LEGGITT: .....off the top of my.....
27
28
                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Perryville and
29 Ivanoff. Perryville and Ivanoff are missing.
30
31
                   MS. LEGGITT: Are missing from the list.
32 And we've had -- and Donald's had conversations with them,
33 or at least with one of those villages who would like to
34 become a resident zone community. And there's a process to
35 do that also, to go through a public process to make a
36 community -- to analyze whether a community is a resident
37 zone community and then go forward with public rule making
38 to add that community to the list.
39
40
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
                                            Robert, go ahead.
41
42
                   MR. HEYANO: Okay.
                                       I can understand if the
43 only people who are allowed to subsistence hunt in these
44 lands are resident communities, that they get together and
45 figure out a mechanism that's going to prioritize in a time
46 of shortage, similar to Lake Clark. But if there's other
47 people, subsistence users who have c&t findings to harvest
48 in these areas, and they're not in the resident community,
49 how does that affect them? And I think as a RAC that
50 that's where we need to be aware of.
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MR. RABINOWITCH: There's -- part of the Federal Board regulations articulate that Federal Board regulations do not supersede agency regulations. It's true for all the agencies that comprise the Federal Board.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Say that again?

8 MR. RABINOWITCH: There's a Federal Board 9 regulation that says that the Federal Board's regulations 10 do not supersede agency regulations.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

MR. RABINOWITCH: So if the Park Service or 15 the Fish and Wildlife Service have a regulation that says 16 no, and the Federal Board says yes, on the lands that -- of 17 Fish and Wildlife or the Park Service, no wins out. The 18 Board can't....

MS. LEGGITT: Trump.

MR. RABINOWITCH:trump the agencies.

23 Okay? Now, it -- I mean, because we all understand that,

24 and because the Board is made of those member agencies, I

25 think all the agencies and Board work pretty hard to avoid

26 those kinds of conflicts, and I think have done so pretty

27 successfully. At least in the years I've been involved.

But, you know, my -- only back a little bit more in 30 my memory here, my recollection of when Lake Clark SRC 31 first brought this up, I think there was concern in the 32 region that there were going to be a lot of people, sort of 33 newcomers moving in perhaps fairly rapidly. Okay. And I 34 think the Keys Point.....

MS. LEGGITT: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

MR. RABINOWITCH:lands may have been what they were concerned about. And so they were concerned about a lot of, if you will, newcomers moving in, and sort of overwhelming local use, local subsistence users. And so they were looking for a mechanism of how to protect their use, okay? And I think that was the origin of the discussion. And as we've said, it's been discussed on and off, but it's never really moved in, you know, fully through any regulatory process. So it's still just an idea.

MS. LEGGITT: And, Robert, you're right, I 50 mean, and I think that that would be one of the public

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  comments would be that that roster req couldn't just be
  limited to people in resident zone communities. You know,
  it would somehow have to accommodate those people that we
  -- that live outside those resident zone communities, but
5
  maybe have 13.4.4 permits and c&t, because we all know
  there's an issue with people that live outside resident
7
   zone communities.
8
9
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.
10
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, are you happy?
11
12
13
                   MS. LEGGITT: Are you guys glad you asked
14 that question?
15
16
                   MR. HEYANO: I'm not happy, but I'm glad I
17 asked the question.
18
19
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: We'll save the battle.
20
21
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay. Is this a break
22 where we could -- or did we.....
23
24
                   MS. LEGGITT: We certainly could take a
25 break. I have a short Alagnak presentation, and then I was
26 anticipating questions from the Council, but I would be
27 happy to take a break.
28
29
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Yeah, let's take a break
30 and come back with the Branch.
                                    Ten-minute break.
31
32
           (Off record - 3:47 p.m.)
33
34
           (On record - 3:59 p.m.)
35
36
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay. Deb and Sandy,
37 we're back on record.
38
39
                   MS. LEGGITT: Yeah. Deb Leggitt, National
40 Park Service.
                  We'll resume with the Alagnak wild river
41 report from the agency, but before I forget, I forgot to
42 mention to the Council today that Lee Fink is not here
43 because he's been flat on his back for the last two weeks
44 with a case of pneumonia.
45
46
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Oh, my goodness.
47
48
                   MS. LEGGITT: And I don't know how he is,
49 because I instructed everyone not to take phone calls from
50 him until he returns. So -- otherwise he would be with us.
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There's been a lot of activity on Alagnak. I spent some time on the Alagnak this summer. For the second summer in a row the National Park Service published an Alagnak Wild River newspaper, which included a map of the river corridor, and included private lands on the corridor. And we hope that through this -- part of this effort, we're reducing trespass on private property along the river.

Our plan this winter is to put out a newsletter in 10 reference to the planning process on the Alagnak. We have 11 completed aerial photography of the Alagnak, and we will 12 soon have a photo mosaic of the river, which will be useful 13 for our planning purposes. We're in the process of 14 developing a river user survey. We had staff at Nonvianuk 15 cabin at the outlet this summer for about eight weeks with 16 a surprising amount of use. We had law enforcement rangers 17 on the river enforcing regulations related to fish and

18 hunting, and primarily doing as much visitor contact as 19 possible.

The rainbow trout catch and release study has been 22 comple -- the first year of a three-year study has been 23 completed, and sometime later this winter we'll have the 24 first results of that study. We completed a two-year water 25 quality study. Year two of a three-year on the river this 26 year. And we're in the midst of an angler effort index 27 which was a joint project supported by this RAC between the 28 National Park Service, BBNA, ADF&G and the village of 29 Levelock.

I anticipate that the National Park Service will 32 conduct late this fall or immediately after the first of 33 the year meetings with other governments, the borough, the 34 other agencies, Levelock, BBNA, to do scoping on issues on 35 the Alagnak. After we do a series of meetings with issue 36 identification, then we'll sit down to the harder work and 37 broader public scoping to see what the solutions might be.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that's it?

MS. LEGGITT: And that's it.

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Questions, 44 Council members? Okay. Deb, this is one that doesn't have 45 anything to do with the Branch, but we kind of miss old 46 Donald Mike.

MS. LEGGITT: Yes, we do.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And we'd like that little

seat warmed up by someone just like him. And so I -- we would like you to go on record as quickly as possible.

3

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6

7

MS. LEGGITT: Dan, I intend to reconfigure my staff slightly to cover those subsistence position -- that subsistence position, and perhaps pair it with something else, and so hopefully by the next RAC meeting, I will have another warm body sitting in a seat.

8 9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Somebody who speaks 11 Yup'ik preferably, but not necessarily. Okay. 12 you know, when use someone like Donald and Tom and these 13 kind of people, and you walk into Levelock, and we've 14 talked about this, Deb, before, and they're having a 15 potluck, and you're going to have a meeting, and this is --16 I think this is good. This is something that we would like 17 to pass this message on to you that it's very important, 18 and we really appreciate that still your office calls up 19 our native corporation and others and say, we've got a job 20 opening here, what do you have? And so along with the 21 request, we do appreciate you making that effort. We 22 really do appreciate that a lot, and we want the public to 23 know that, that you've been very good about that, and we do 24 thank you for that.

25 26

MS. LEGGITT: Dan, one thing that -- I 27 visited with the Lake Clark SRC about last week, and I see 28 that this Council has already beaten me to the punch, but 29 one of the things that I'm interested in as with SRCs and 30 the RACs and as the National Park Service builds its own 31 staff, is to train the youth.

32 33

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

34 35

MS. LEGGITT: And to reach out, if there's an opening on an SRC, or on the Council to reach out and 37 bring someone along who can stand on your shoulders for a see few years, because I think it's important. In fact at the 19 last SRC meeting we asked them if the next time they met, and I can't remember if we're meeting in Nondalton or Port 19 local school to watch what the SRC does to start growing 19 that capacity really young at the important work that you 19 do. So I'm also cognizant. I'm very receptive to your 19 remarks and I'm cognizant of that on my own staff.

46

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Also, Deb, since 48 the Council members don't have any questions or comments 49 here, I just wanted to mention to you while we have you on 50 the -- on record, that ORV thing and Lake Clark, Igiugig,

Levelock, I know Aniakchak now is -- that's become a big issue down there, but probably could be taken care of in maybe just one management type decision, whatever that's going to be. Apparently from what you said today, this report has been given back to Kokhanok now for what your findings are and you're waiting for them to respond to you, is that right?

8

9 MS. LEGGITT: Don Calloway did oral 10 interviews in Kokhanok, and he has put pen to paper and 11 then he provided that to the village council in Kokhanok, 12 so that we could be certain that we accurately represented 13 their comments.

14 15

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

16

MS. LEGGITT: And Don took comments back 18 from them last week.

19 20

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

21 22

MS. LEGGITT: And so we should have that 23 report complete.

24 25

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

26 27

MS. LEGGITT: After reviewing that, then 28 the question will be what next, and I think I need to go 29 visit with the village council at Kokhanok first before I 30 get ahead of the game here, but I'm hoping that we will be 31 able to do that next month. Don did an excellent job on 32 that.

33

The Council also needs to know that interest in the National Park Preserve ATV issue is growing. That the Sierra Club and that the Alaska Conservation Foundation has hired a former park superintendent to look at the ATV issue regionwide.

39

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

40 41 42

MS. LEGGITT: And I've -- my office has 43 recently received a Freedom of Information Act request 44 requesting, you know, all case incidents, final documents, 45 and those kinds of things. So there's lots of interest out 46 there in what the agency will decide and how we will move 47 forward.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Sometimes we do 50 need to get information and move according to what Kokhanok

would like and Levelock and Igiugig and eventually Chigniks or whatever, down in that area. However, we do not want to miss the opportunity when it could be favorable for us to make a decision on this, you know Personnel changes take place, a lot of things happen. You know, you've got to go through the whole process again. Someone have a -- you 7 know, protect and preserve may become stamped across their forehead, and a lot of things change, so what I'm talking about is sometimes it's prudent to make this decision as 10 quickly as possible without it becoming such a -- something 11 we can't handle later on down the -- I don't want to delay 12 it too long, as you've heard before I'm sure.

13 14

MS. LEGGITT: I -- well, and I understand 15 that the training and feeding of new superintendent is a 16 laborious business, and you don't want to have to do that 17 too often. I, too, have a new regional director. And I'm 18 conscious of your concern about speed, but you also need to 19 remember that we're being directly responsive to the 20 Village of Kokhanok, who asked us first to hurry up, and 21 then asked us to slow down. And to the best of my 22 knowledge, we're moving forward at the pace that they're 23 comfortable with. But the hard part comes next. You also 24 need to know that in this year's budget I have money set 25 aside, I will talk with the village council at Igiugig to 26 see if we can address this issue with them, and then I 27 think that we also will do the same kind of literature 28 survey and the start that we did at Kokhanok down at 29 Aniakchak.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good. Thank you. 32 And does that conclude your report?

33 34

MS. LEGGITT: That concludes my report 35 today.

36 37

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Okay. 38 you very much. We have a method of, you know, feeding a 39 new superintendent, put them in the corner, or they in a 40 corner and feed them with a slingshot would be one method 41 of -- doesn't have to go on record, okay? Thank you very 42 much.

43 44

MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chair?

45 46

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes?

47 48

MR. HEYANO: I have a question.

49 50

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

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                   MR. HEYANO:
                                When will the public be able
  to see a copy of that report from the ATV issue at
3
  Kokhanok?
4
5
                   MS. LEGGITT: It depends when it's made
6
  final.
7
8
                   MR. HEYANO: A year from now?
                                                  Six months?
9
10
                   MS. LEGGITT: I would hope in the next
11 year. The -- making the report final is one thing, Robert.
12 Making the agency determination is another. So if -- I
13 don't -- if you're asking when will the agency make a
14 decision, I won't commit to that. But I think that in the
15 very near future, we'll have all that material, some of
16 which we've already provided to the Council to make
17 available to the public.
18
19
                   MR. HEYANO: No, my question was just for
20 the report.
21
22
                   MS. LEGGITT: Oh, yeah. Certainly within
23 the next year. I need to be sure that the community of
24 Kokhanok is satisfied with what their oral interviews
25 appearing in print, that we're accurately reflecting what
26 they told us. And I think Don's made great progress, and I
27 think that they had minor changes to make, but they were
28 over-all very pleased.
29
30
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
                                            Good.
                                                   Well, we --
31 yes, Robert.
32
33
                   MR. HEYANO: One other, just maybe a
34 comment is my understanding of it is this body's role in
35 that decision is going to be significantly less than the
36 roll we have with the Federal Subsistence Board, correct?
37
38
                   MS. LEGGITT:
                                 I will always listen to the
39 advice and counsel of this board.
40
41
                   MR. HEYANO: Thank you.
42
43
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                            Thank you, Deb.
                                     Okay.
44 We appreciate that.
45
46
                   MS. LEGGITT:
                                 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I want to tell you what
48
49 -- okay. All right. Robin? Sandy, you have --
50 Rabinowitch, you are -- you have the mic.
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MR. RABINOWITCH: I can't resist the comment to say that this body had done a great job keeping our feet to the fire on the issue you just finished talking about.

5 6

7

I had two things, be very -- I'll be very, very Two things to mention. Just as a point of information, about a month or so ago Judy Gotlieb, who's the Park Service board member, and I came down for a quick 10 one-day visit, and did an overflight of the Alagnak or the 11 Branch River if you will, so just to share that with you. 12 And we had an excellent local pilot and guide.

13

14 And onto the other item, I'm going to tell a little 15 story about your chairman, Dan O'Hara here. He doesn't 16 know this.

17 18

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go off record then.

19 20

(Laughter)

21

22 MR. RABINOWITCH: Not all of you may know 23 that Dan went to St. Louis recently. The Park Service has 24 a rather large meeting once every ten years. That just 25 happened about a month ago in St. Louis. We had about 1100 26 people from the Park Service from all over the country 27 together in once place. And Dan agreed to come and join 28 us, as did Willy Goodwin from Kotzebue. So the short of it 29 is we invited Dan and he said, yes, and he came and donated 30 a week of his time. He worked very hard during that week. 31 I can attest to it. I saw him every day. He participated, 32 you know, up front at -- in front of a room on a panel 33 about subsistence with Willy Goodwin. And he did a great 34 job. And that's really the message I'm here to share with 35 you. He did do a great job, and the Park Service 36 appreciates that very much, and it's a pleasure to be able 37 to just share that with you. So that's the end of that 38 one.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. I have a little 41 backpack with -- a green backpack with a Park Service stamp 42 on it, guys. Oh, look at that, see, right back there. 43 There you go. Just like that one John has back there, 44 okay.

45

46 MR. RABINOWITCH: So we really appreciate 47 what Dan did, and we just wanted to make sure you all knew 48 that.

49 50

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. That was a very

educational meeting, it really was. A great learning curve for me, too. Thank you, Sandy, appreciate that.

3 4

MR. RABINOWITCH: You bet. Thank you.

5 6

MR. SAMUELSEN: Let's see here. I think we're all done with the B items, and we're onto C.

7 8

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Since we're going 10 to be -- U.S. Fish and Wildlife is next, C items on this? 11 Okay.

12

13 I guess for MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chair? 14 planning purposes, Mr. Chair, we're way ahead of schedule 15 and I guess your plans are to work until about five, 5:30, 16 take a break for dinner, then come back and fully expect to 17 be done by about 9:30 in the morning, am I correct there, 18 Mr. Chairman?

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. At the rate we're 21 going now, we could finish tonight, but we need to have a 22 report tomorrow morning that we have already set up, 23 so....

24 25

MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

26 27

CHAIRMAN O'HARA:along that line 28 though, we will be discussing perhaps even tonight the next 29 meeting of this Council which will probably be dealing with 30 money issues and what we want in the way of spending in the 31 Bristol Bay area. Gentlemen, thank you for being here.

32 33

MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 34 name's Andy Aderman with the Togiak National Wildlife 35 Refuge. During the break I put out an information bulletin 36 in front of each of your chairs. Hopefully you've located 37 that. Mark is going to address fisheries issues first, and 38 then I will continue on with wildlife.

39

40 MR. LISAC: Thank you. Yeah, Mark Lisac, 41 fisheries biologist for Togiak Refuge. I don't know if 42 I'll address the fisheries issues, but I'll just briefly 43 give you an outline of things we've done here in the last 44 year, and maybe touch on a couple things we plan on doing. 45 A few of the projects we've been working on over the years 46 has been a -- or you may not be aware of it, we have a 47 really good working relationship with the Department, so we 48 have quite a few cooperative projects that we assist them 49 on for monitoring salmon escapement. I'm not going to read 50 through all these, but just touch on a few.

The -- this last year we were successful in using Federal Subsistence Board money through that -- you know, that fast track project funding we went through last year to extend the operation of a weir that the Department operates on the Goodnews River to count coho salmon, and also a project that's been kind of in the works on the Kanektok River at the Native Village of Quinhagak, Bering Sea Fishermen's, the Department, and Fish and Wildlife Service have been working on. We got some of that money 10 put into that project to try to count cohos there also.

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Another project that's been near and dear to my 13 heart here lately is the dolly varden life history study, 14 and I've put down some of the highlights there, but you may 15 just be interested to know that those fish that we tagged 16 in the Togiak River have turned up -- one has turned up 17 down here in Igiugig, and another all the way up in Emmonak 18 on the Yukon River, and also we've had a couple show up on 19 the Kanektok River. And another one showed up in Eek. 20 we're not just looking at Togiak River dolly varden, and I 21 suspect that's probably true for a lot of these rivers 22 around here, that these big schools of dollies that are 23 coming in there are not born and raised, they're not natal 24 to those watersheds. They probably are from anywhere in 25 the Bering Sea, so we hope to continue on with that work 26 and expand off to the west in the next few years. And we 27 did -- we also were successful in getting money to start a 28 genetics study on the Togiak River, and have a proposal in 29 for this fiscal year 2001 to expand that throughout Bristol 30 Bay, to try to get more dolly collections there.

31 32

We started a rainbow trout radio telemetry study 33 there in the Togiak drainage again here this year, and that 34 will be on-going for the next couple years. So all of this 35 information will be available to you in years to come as 36 issues come up or concerns about any of these species.

37 38

And I guess that's all I have to say. I mean, I 39 think is a good opportunity for our programs to I guess get 40 direction from the RACs as far as when issues come up 41 through this body, we'll try to secure the funding through 42 the Federal Subsistence Board to answer the questions you 43 have.

44 45

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council 46 members? Yeah, Pete?

47

48 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I think last 49 year you mentioned something about a weir in Togiak. 50 you contact the corporation over there for use of building?

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MR. LISAC: That was another project that was funded by the federal subsistence funding. 3 year was to go out and take measurements and do an analysis 4 of whether a weir is going to work in the Togiak River, and then for the next two years the plan was to try to get a project in the river, and I'm not sure if Jeff and Jim are already planning on discussing that later or -- are you? I'll leave that for those guys to fill you in, but 9 basically that's a monster of a river and there's probably 10 not a weir design available to work yet.

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MR. ABRAHAM: Thank you. And that's.....

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CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions? 15 Mark, you had a pretty good sized paragraph on dolly varden 16 and just a real small on rainbow. And I was really 17 surprised just to find out that you even have rainbow trout 18 in the Togiak. I don't know why I should have been, 19 but....

20 21

MR. LISAC: We like to keep them a secret.

22 23

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I was going to say that. 24 It's a good secret.

25 26

MR. LISAC: We tell everybody to come over

28

27 here.

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The -- this insert thing 30 that you're doing with these rainbow, how long ago did this 31 happen, and what kind of success have you had?

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MR. LISAC: It's similar surgery that we've 34 done, you know, with the dolly varden. The rainbow trout 35 was -- that project just started this spring.

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CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

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39 MR. LISAC: So after spawning. It was in 40 May and June that those transmitters were implanted.

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CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. how often do you 43 check the location of the transmitters?

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MR. LISAC: Right now it's about every two 46 weeks.

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48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, and what kind of 49 survival rate have you had?

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00083 MR. LISAC: Real good. As far as I know, all the fish that assume the transmitters are still working on, still operating on, we put out 50 transmitters. There are three of them that we haven't heard from since they were implanted, and that's fairly common with 5 telemetry studies. You have failure in the transmitters. 6 7 But all the other fish are still alive and active. 8 9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. 10 11 MR. LISAC: I believe early on there was 12 one fish that did die, and that transmitter was recovered 13 and put in another fish. 14 15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I know they did a similar 16 program on the Branch, and..... 17 18 MR. LISAC: Uh-huh. 19 20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:I think some had 21 some success and then I think they had a bad bunch of 22 batteries at one time, too, which was really too bad, 23 because, you know, so much research is lost at that time. 24 25 MR. LISAC: That's correct, yeah. 26 had, I don't know, 170 or 180 transmitters that most of the 27 batteries were bad on those. 28 29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Well, good. Thank 30 you. I appreciate that. Anything else? 31 32 MR. LISAC: That's all I have for now. 33 34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. 35 36 MS. KELLY: Mr. Chair? 37 38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, excuse me, I'm 39 sorry. Do you have -- does somebody have a question? 40 MR. HEYANO: Yes, a question. How much 41 42 money do you have in the budget on your annual budget to do 43 these fishery projects, aside from securing funding through 44 the federal subsistence?

45
46
MR. LISAC: We have -- in the last couple
47 years we have gotten I think \$59,000 from -- you'd have to
48 ask Aaron what our total budget is in the fisheries, but I
49 think it was 59 is our base fisheries budget.
50

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else? Okay.

Thanks. Okay.

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MR. ADERMAN: Okay. Again, thank you. My name is Andy Aderman, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and I'll primarily just address caribou and moose. Starting with Mulchatna caribou, we had a joint opening for hunting in Unit 18 south of the Yukon in Unit 17(A) west of the Togiak River, and on the east side north of Pungokepuk Creek. That was a joint opening between Fish and Game in Bethel and Dillingham, and the Togiak Refuge and the Yukon Delta Refuge. We've assisted Fish and Game with radio collaring Mulchatna caribou both locally here and up in the Kilbuck Mountains, and also with the recent composition and condition work.

16 17

Moving on to Nughagak caribou, we radio collared 18 ten new animals this last spring. The condition of the 19 calves was about the poorest we've seen since that herd's 20 been down there. We think that it's primarily due to the 21 amount of snow that we had last winter. The calf 22 production, the number of calves that we'd seen this 23 spring, based on only 11 adult radio collared cows, came 24 out to 91 calves per 100 cows. We just recently did a 25 composition on that herd, and that information suggested we 26 have 38 calves per 100 cows right now, and 51 bulls per 100 cows.

28 29

We plan to meet with the Nushagak Caribou Planning 30 Committee in early November to review the status reports of 31 the population. Some of the information I just presented 32 to you, and the harvest -- the harvest for last year thus 33 far stands as 63 caribou, and as of right now for the fall 34 hunt this year, there were five caribou reported.

35 36

Moving on to moose, at the same time that we did 37 the caribou capture, we also caught ten moose and radio 38 collared them. We had exceptional calf production this 39 year based on our radio collared animals. It came out at a 40 minimum of 157 calves per 100 cows. The twinning rate was 41 right at 60 percent, and it also included one set of 42 triplets, which is quite rate for moose.

43

In the two and a half years that -- since we 45 started this study, we've had 11 of those radio collared 46 moose die or an annual average adult mortality of 17 47 percent. The cause of those mortalities were attributed to 48 illegal harvest was five animals, and I might mention that 49 at least two of those were over on the Unit 18 side. Brown 50 bears took about 36 percent or four animals. And we had

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the two bulls that locked antlers.

3 We finished up our population count last spring right -- I believe it was the day after your meeting ended. We counted a total of 422 moose in Unit 17(A). We weren't 5 able to get any sex composition at that time, but we did 7 observe a minimum of 60 or 14 -- just over 14 percent calves. And if you recall, this is about 20 percent less than what we counted the year before when we counted 511. 10 I think some of the reasons for the lower count this last 11 March was due to survey conditions in the lower part of the 12 survey area. We had patchy show conditions. That makes 13 moose very difficult to see. And our survey conditions 14 ranged to excellent in the northern part of the unit. We 15 didn't survey every area in the area -- in Unit 17(A), so 16 it's possible that we could have missed some moose. Also, 17 our survey took place over a two-week period where in the 18 past it's usually taken place in two days. That was due to 19 weather conditions. And then the mortality that I just 20 mentioned, that's an explana -- possible explanation for an 21 actual real decrease in that population, as is moose moving 22 outside of the survey area. 23

Moving on to the draft moose management plan, after 25 your meeting this last March, I attended Togiak Fish and 26 Game Advisory Committee meeting, presenting them with what 27 this Council support. They were planning to have a moose 28 work session and a meeting with the elders, and I believe 29 neither of those occurred. Additionally, this August I 30 mailed out that plan, asking for comments, and to date I 31 have not received any comments.

The others -- the other items are projects that the 34 refuge is involved with. We continue our cooperation with 35 the brown bear study. That's on the northern part of the 36 refuge. We continue to monitor marine mammals and sea 37 birds out in the Cape Peirce area. There's a variety of 38 other bird projects scattered across the refuge. I just 39 made mention of what those projects were.

We continue our river ranger program on the Togiak, 42 Goodnews and Kanektok Rivers.

We also have a pretty active education and outreach 45 program. I've listed some of the projects or events that 46 the refuge has been involved with.

48 And the every last page of your handout is an 49 update on our comprehensive conservation plan, an 50 informational handout. We're in the process of revising

00086 that document. 3 And that concludes my report, Mr. Chairman. 4 5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. 6 questions, Council members? Yes, Pete? 7 8 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Last spring or, you know, last -- yeah, last spring anyway, we had quite a bit 10 of snow in Cape Constantine area, and I went down there to 11 hunt, and there was hardly any caribou down there. But 12 later on I noticed they were right in Kulukak area. 13 mean, majority of the herd was there I think. Did you go 14 back to Cape Constantine again? 15 16 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, I did, Pete. 17 recall, at the last meeting, I had a couple of overheads, 18 and I believe it was in February where we observed I 19 believe about 900 animals that were off the Peninsula or 20 outside of the existing hunt area, and a month later most 21 of those animals had moved back and were actually down at 22 the southern part of the Peninsula. And we had I think 23 about 150 in the Kulukak area, and most of those have moved 24 back to the Peninsula. 25 26 MR. ABRAHAM: I agree, Andy. Thank you, 27 Mr. Chairman. 28 29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other 30 questions, Council members? Yes. 31 32 MR. SAMUELSEN: Let's see. Under walrus, 33 Andy, maybe it's coming up in a different staff report. 34 Did we have a count on walrus in Stroganof or Cinnamon (ph) 35 area this year? 36 37 MR. ADERMAN: I don't believe so. 38 understand that that camp never happened this year. 39 40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Under seals in 41 Nanvak Bay, the count was 575 August 15th. How does that 42 compare with prior years? 43 44 MR. ADERMAN: It's actually above the --45 slightly above the ten-year average. I don't have that 46 exact figure, but looking at the graph, it's been right 47 around a little over 500 has been our peak over the last 48 ten years. Historically, there's information I believe 49 from the 70s where there were upwards of 3,000 seals 50 counted there. So -- and depending on how far you go back,

MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. And then the moose in the Togiak Refuge area, 17(A), it looks like there was roughly a 20 percent decrease, and you're not sure if there was a decrease there or not, because of the survey conditions?

> MR. RABINOWITCH: That's correct.

> MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Along this same line, 14 Andy, I've been wondering all the time, one of the things 15 that has been so favorable for that herd is there really 16 hasn't been any increase, or even very much known I guess 17 predators on that 17(A) herd. Is that true? Have they 18 increased any? Would that cause a decrease, or did you 19 just miss them?

20

21 Well, there are brown bears MR. ADERMAN: 22 and wolves that inhabit that same area. We don't have very 23 good information or estimates on their population size.

24 25

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

26 27

MR. ADERMAN: Incidental information that I 28 record when I'm out flying in that area, talking with local 29 people, I think both sources indicate that both moose and 30 -- or excuse me, both brown bears and wolves have increased 31 in recent years.

32 33

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay. You know, 34 flying the Alaska Peninsula as probably most of you have 35 noticed, we do have a lot of moose calves this year, and 36 even up into August and September, the survival rate looks 37 pretty good. Did -- there's a difference having a lot of 38 calves in June and then having still some in September. 39 Did you -- are you keeping -- are the calves surviving 40 okay?

41 42

We.... MR. ADERMAN:

43 44

So far as you know? CHAIRMAN O'HARA:

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46 MR. ADERMAN: As far as I know, they're 47 doing all right, but we really look at the October and 48 November survey, which I have to do yet to look at how many 49 of those calves are still alive.

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00088 1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I see. 2 3 MR. ADERMAN: I get glimpses of them, you know, throughout the summer, and -- but even a month ago, 5 there was quite a bit of -- quite a few leaves and lichen. 6 I won't even see the adult animals sometimes, so..... 7 8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay. Good. 9 Any other questions, Council? Yes, Robert? 10 11 MR. HEYANO: What's the range like on the 12 Nushagak Peninsula? The habitat for the caribou? 13 14 MR. ADERMAN: We.... 15 16 MR. HEYANO: What's it showing you? 17 18 MR. ADERMAN: The range is in pretty good 19 shape yet. We did look at the range specifically last 20 year. We have some exclosure sites down there that keep 21 caribou out of a small area. We also have some areas 22 outside where caribou can feed and look at those. Local --23 there are localized areas of heavy use, and that's both 24 from eating and/or trampling. Those tend to be the ridge 25 tops that get blown free of snow during the wintertime, but 26 overall it's -- the range is in pretty good shape, yes. 27 28 MR. ABRAHAM: One more question, Mr. Chair? 29 30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure, go ahead. 31 32 MR. ABRAHAM: What's the -- what is the 33 final count on Nushagak Peninsula herd? I mean, well, 34 let's go back from five years until next year, you know, 35 what's the ratio on the count? Do they go up and down, or 36 just about the same? 37 38 MR. ADERMAN: Are you talking the ratio of 39 calves per 100 cows, or the population numbers? 40 41 MR. ABRAHAM: The population. 42 43 MR. ADERMAN: The population -- we did not 44 get a count in this last winter. Before that, the previous 45 three counts were all right around 1300, so it appears that 46 that -- you know, the population went up rather quickly

47 until about 96/97, and it seemed to have leveled off. So 48 right now, you know, barring a count, we're estimating 49 probably about 14 to 1500 animals that are down there.

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MR. ABRAHAM: So in other words, if the calving over there has increased or just kind of steady or we have -- do we have a predator problem?

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MR. ADERMAN: The calving has actually been quite good ever since that herd's been down there and been monitored. We've had -- I think our lowest calf production was maybe 80 calves per 100 cows. Several years we had every cow that had a radio collar have a calf. As Chairman 10 O'Hara was saying, you know, that's just one side of it, 11 and you have to look at what you have left in the fall, how 12 many of those calves survived. The estimate that I gave 13 you of 38 calves per 100 cows, that is our lowest estimate, 14 fall estimate since that herd's been down there. It could 15 be predator related. There are bears down there. There's 16 a fair number of coyotes which could kill caribou calves. 17 Or it could be condition of the caribou themselves. 18 going through that hard winter, and calves could have been 19 underweight and just not made it. It could be a disease 20 problem. If there is pneumonia or lung worm, things that 21 we don't know, you know, exist, I mean, those things can, 22 you know, act unfavorably on young animals.

23 24

MR. ABRAHAM: Or are they going out of the 25 line there or some going toward somewhere else?

26 27

MR. ADERMAN: That's always a possibility. 28 Based on our radio collars, we haven't seen that where 29 they're going, you know, leaving the Peninsula and not 30 coming back. The ones that have gone off, have returned. 31 It could be maybe the bulls, which we don't radio collar, 32 possibly some of those are leaving and not returning.

33 34

MR. ABRAHAM: You know, poten -- there was 35 -- remember that herd behind Twin Hills, you know, that --36 well, they stayed over there, you know, throughout the 37 winter, like mostly they're up on top of the mountain most 38 of the time. Those are Peninsula -- part of the Peninsula 39 herd?

40 41

MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

42 43

MR. ABRAHAM: So they're increasing 44 somewhere else. So your 1500 or 1400 number right there on 45 the Peninsula are expanding somewhere else, you know, like 46 maybe five, 600 in some area that.....

47

48 MR. ADERMAN: That very well could be, 49 Pete. You know, based on our calf production and 50 recruitment estimates that we see, you know, there's

caribou going somewhere, whether they're leaving the Peninsula, that's certainly a possibility. possibility exists is unreported harvest.

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MR. ABRAHAM: You know, when you had that emergency order opening on caribou on the west side of the Togiak River, people, you know, got some caribou, and they were exceptionally fat, and when that herd from somewhere came around. I don't know, I never asked them, you know, 10 what brand they are, whether they're Kilbuck, or Mulchatna 11 or whatever, you know, but report from the people over 12 there are saying they're lean. So there's a difference 13 between them right there, you know, resident caribou and 14 then the tourist caribou.

15 16

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robin?

17 18

MR. SAMUELSEN: Andy, what percent of the 19 harvest do you think is going unreported on the Nushagak 20 Peninsula caribou herd? I mean, we've had favorable, 21 excellent snowmobile conditions in the spring of the year, 22 and do we got a complacency problem with reporting?

23 24

Looking at, MR. ADERMAN: I think we do. 25 you know, what we know about caribou, and, you know, 26 population counts, number of calves produced, number of 27 calves surviving, mortality rates of radio collared 28 animals, putting that all together and then, you know, 29 incorporating the harvest, it would appear like two to 30 three times the reported harvest is -- those caribou are 31 going somewhere, whether it's all due to harvest, or 32 animals going off the Peninsula.

33 34

MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, because, you know, 35 I've talked to hunters from Dillingham that went down 36 there, and the snow conditions were such that it took about 37 an hour to get down there to the animals. So, you know, 38 it's probably a half hour trip from Manokotak, 45-minute 39 trip from Manokotak. So are you planning on any 40 educational program on the importance of reporting in 41 Dillingham and Manokotak? That's primarily the two that 42 hunt down there.

43 44

MR. ADERMAN: Yes. And we -- it will be an 45 agenda item on the planning committee meeting again. If 46 you recall, last year we brought this up, and there will be 47 an increased law enforcement effort, but, you know, along 48 with that there will be an educational effort.

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MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

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00091
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                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah?
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                   MR. ABRAHAM: Two -- yeah, two years ago
  through the grapevine I heard there's some poaching from
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  Manokotak and some from Dillingham. I haven't -- you know,
  I haven't brought it up, but, you know, there was some
7
  reported from over there.
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                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?
10 Yes?
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                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I think there's a
13 difference between pouching and not reporting your harvest.
14 Let's make that distinction there.
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                   MR. ABRAHAM: Well, poaching and not
17 reporting.
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                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.
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                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.
                                             Anything else,
22 Council members? Well, thanks, guys. We appreciate it.
23 Well, excuse me, go ahead, Robert.
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                   MR. HEYANO: One question. Do you still
26 consider the moose management plan for 17(A) in draft form?
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                   MR. ADERMAN: Yes, I do.
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                   MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?
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                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Unh-huh.
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                   MR. ABRAHAM: I think Traditional Council
35 of Togiak and Togiak advisory people are going to need help
36 maybe, you know, to contact someone or one of them maybe,
37 Mr. John Parker is the guy to contact on your proposal
38 before 27th anyway.
39
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                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else,
41 Council members?
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                   MR. HEYANO: Well, I guess just as a member
44 of this RAC, Mr. Chairman, I -- our last action at our last
45 meeting, I thought we adopted the management plan. So in
46 my opinion it's not a draft any more, it's a working
47 document that's in place for our committee here anyway.
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                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, Thank you
50 very much, guys, appreciate it. This schedule says shows
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00092 -- says Orville Lind is next on the agenda today? 3 MR. SAMUELSEN: You're right. He made the 4 motion. 5 6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I know. So it's 7 not a working document. I mean, it's not a draft. you bring the powers with you, huh, Orville? All right. 8 9 10 MR. LONS: Mr. Chairman, Council members, 11 Daryl Lons, refuge manager of Alaska Peninsula and Becharof 12 Refuges. We provided a written agency report in Tab J that 13 you may look at. Orville's going to make some very concise 14 remarks this afternoon to highlight those -- that agency 15 report and supplement some of the issues, but I wanted to 16 offer, if the Council would like, Ron Squibb is prepared to 17 provide a summary of the status of the Northern Alaska 18 Peninsula caribou herd, so it's your pleasure whether you 19 would like to hear that report or not. I can't guarantee 20 that that will be as concise as Orville's report, so it's 21 your pleasure. 22 23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, we would --Yeah. 24 we'd want Orville's, and then we want Ron's, too,.... 25 26 MR. LONS: You want Ron's, too. All right. 27 28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:'cause that Northern 29 Peninsula herd I think is really important, too. 30 31 MR. LONS: Okay. Take it from there, but 32 don't do the caribou. 33 34 That was really good. CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 35 Okay, Orville. 36 37 MR. LIND: Thank you, Lons. Thank you, Mr. 38 Chairman, and members of the Council, I'm glad to be back 39 here. I'm just going to go under Tab J as Mr. Lons say, 40 I'm just going to go through this very briefly, touch on a 41 few items that we have going on. 42 43 Under refuge planning, our draft refuge 44 comprehensive conservation plan is -- or hopefully will be 45 released for public comment this winter, and we currently 46 have four alternatives for management direction that we are 47 considering. And the one alternative is considered current 48 management where three are action alternatives with issues 49 on predator control, helicopter access, wilderness, wild 50 and scenic river proposals. We do anticipate some changes

with these alternatives based on comments we receive from the public, and then we are planning to travel after the plan is released to conduct the public meetings in all the villages.

5 6

Moving to the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd, Ron will address that. Ron Squibb. And I'm going to give him the moose also.

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CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hold up your sign again.

11 12

MR. LIND: The Becharof Lake Island Arm monitoring in 9(E) during the moose season, refuge staff 14 flew law enforcement patrols around Becharof Lake area. At 15 Island Arm cabin, refuge staff patrolled the shores with our 24-foot vessel, the Refuge Runner. Four boats were observed traveling through the rapids into the lake; 18 however no contact was made with those four boats. A total of four groups observed in the Becharof area. The first group consisted of four hunters that were dropped off by a 21 transporter, the second group were five fishermen with transporter plane at the site. And the third group were 23 locals camped at the mouth of Kajulik River. Local 24 hunters. And the fourth group was a local family.

25 26

And going onto page four, under public use surveys, 27 the refuge staff and volunteers, we continue to monitor the 28 public use camp, or public use as the Egegik River outlet, 29 and we started that on July 24th and went through September 30 8th. And again the objectives were identify users both off 31 and on refuge, as well as proportion of local and nonlocal users. Last year we had a total of 581 individuals visit 33 our refuge on and off. And 45 percent of those spent their 34 time within the refuge, 53 were observed travelling through 35 the area en route to and from Becharof Lake. Currently 36 this year, total was 610 users, but the data is still being 37 compiled now, and we don't have numbers for on and off users.

39 40

And that concludes my report, Mr. Chairman, if you 41 have any questions for our biologist.

42 43

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any questions? 44 Orville, you mentioned briefly there under moose, let's 45 see, those who were dropped off to hunt moose, were they 46 just drop-off hunters?

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MR. LIND: Are you talking about the party

49 of four?

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                   MR. LIND: They were hunters that were
4
  dropped off by transporter.
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                                     Resident of nonresident?
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
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                   MR. LIND:
                              That I don't know for sure.
9
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                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You don't know that? Did
11 they get any animals?
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13
                   MR. LIND:
                              That we don't know also.
14
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                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You don't know that
16 either?
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18
                   MR. LIND:
                              The report will be given out
19 toward the end of the year.
20
21
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
                                            I think a big
22 concern that I have, and we'll probably be working on
23 outside this council obviously is a nonresident hunter who
24 takes a moose, I think it should be a guided hunt for a
25 nonresident, because of the tremendous waste of the
26 animals that been taking place on the -- a least on the
27 Alaska Peninsula and the Mulchatna area. I don't know
28 about your enforcement people, but I know the brown shirts
29 have just been finding a lot of violations of nonresidents
30 killing a moose five miles in and they struggle out with
31 the horns, and by the time they get back, the bear's there
32 and the meat is gone, and it just gets to be a total mess.
33 They haven't a clue what happens when they kill a 12, 1500
34 animal that far away, and then the violation involved and
35 the waste of an animal, so -- but that's okay.
36 don't know if they were a resident of nonresident, that's
37 fine, because I just was curious.
                                       Any other questions,
38 Council members, you might have?
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                   MS. KELLY:
                               I have a comment.
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                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, sure.
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                   MS. KELLY: When you go out to the villages
45 and promote wild and scenic rivers, I would appreciate it
46 if you would tell the people the whole story, that it just
47 doesn't protect subsistence uses, that it allows for
48 tourism to increase, and so you need to paint the whole
49 picture, not just part of it.
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CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

00094 1 00095 MR. LIND: That's wild and scenic river 2 designations? 3 4 MS. KELLY: Yes. Yes. 5 б CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other 7 comments, Council members? Okay. We're going to do the 8 North Peninsula caribou herd now of what is -- Ron, are you 9 going to come talk..... 10 11 The wishes of the Board. MR. LIND: 12 13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yes. 14 15 MR. SQUIBB: I'll try -- I've got a couple 16 of overheads to summarize the data, so I'll try and get 17 this thing to reach an outlet. It will take a minute 18 to.... 19 20 (Off record conversation) 21 22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll -- Ron, we'll have 23 that in a minute. Could we just take a ten minute 24 break,.... 25 26 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, that sounds good. 27 28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:and we'll get 29 another overhead, so -- I think this Northern Peninsula 30 herd is pretty important that we get some information on 31 it. So take a ten-minute break? Okay. We'll do that. 32 33 (Off record - 4:45 p.m.) 34 35 (On record - 5:04 p.m.) 36 37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We are on record. All 38 right. We're ready? Okay. 39 40 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, Ron 41 Squibb, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with Alaska 42 Peninsula Refuge, and I'll go with the slides on the 43 caribou discussion. 44 45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. 46 47 MR. SQUIBB: This is just a general trend 48 of the counts of the Alaska Peninsula herd since we started 49 the method that we now use in the mid 70s. There's a break 50 as you can see, there's no data reflected on that for herd

count between '76 and I guess that's '81. Can't quite tell from here. But the herd went up to 20,000 or so and stayed there between 17 and 20 for some years as you can see, and began a decline that's continued since it dropped off in, oh, the early/mid 90s. And last year, in the 1999 count, was 8600 animals, and the count -- again, the count is done post calving in late June, early July, and at that time the calves can follow the herd, you know, they're out of the early reach of predators, can outrun the bears, if you will. And then again in this summer, 19- -- excuse me, 12000 count, we dropped 1600 animals to 7000 even on that 2 count approximately. So the decline does continue.

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14 And I've got a couple of other graphs to show you 15 the changes in bull/cow ratios and calf/cow ratios. 16 graph shows you the bull/cow ratios, and again as I said a 17 moment ago, the count that we use for the herd is taken 18 post calving in late June and -- to mid July. And the --19 these counts for the ratios are the fall composition counts 20 which were just finished the last few days. 21 Valkenberg, a research biologist for Fish and Game out of 22 Dillingham -- excuse me, out of Fairbanks, was done with a 23 helicopter and we supported him a little bit in finding 24 animals. And they just finished this count for this year. 25 And this -- again it bounced around a little bit, but these 26 are bull/cow ratios that -- I don't want to speak for Fish 27 and Game, but the -- one of the objectives is to maintain 28 sufficient bulls in order to cover all the cows and make 29 sure, you know, there's adequate bulls to carry out 30 breeding. And this is total bulls. If you -- this 31 includes the younger animals, so if you look at the -- you 32 could probably bet -- you can get by with fewer breeding 33 bulls than these, but this includes the younger, not as 34 competitive breeding bulls in the total. And there's also 35 -- since we're down to a bull only hunt in the Tier II 36 program, this is where -- these ratios are what determines 37 the harvestable surplus that generates the number of Tier 38 II permits coming out of the equation. But as you can see 39 this one bounces around even in the periods where the 40 animals -- the population's real high, you would have 41 periods when you would have lower counts. Bull/cow ratios 42 can drop and populations still be big.

43

Okay. This is your again this fall, just 45 completed, the October calf/cows coming out of the October 46 composition counts. And here you see the pattern does 47 reflect the population trend a little more directly. You 48 has some low cow/calf ratios it looks like in the early 49 80s, but more or less the calf - proportion of calves as 50 you can see, and this -- these are both in terms of both --

the last one and this one were in terms of bulls or in this case calves per 100 cows. And so you can see we're holding up there in the 50s, 40s, and now we've declined. I believe last year it was 20 even in 1999 in October, and we're at 18 calves per 100 cows.

6 7

For comparison, I don't have a graph on this one, but I've got the summary that Pat Valkenberg just made up for us after he completed the work just yesterday, and just 10 for comparison sake, as I said, the Northern Peninsula 11 calf/cow ratio was 18 calves per 100 cows. And during the 12 same effort, we also looked at the Southern Peninsula herd. 13 As you know, the Southern Peninsula herd is coming back up. 14 And their calf/cow ratio is up to 37 calves per 100 cows. 15 So -- and that's sort of the basis of the equation is in 16 the herd, the calf -- or rather the recruitment of calves 17 into the population is not keeping up with the mortality 18 from all sources. And we've obviously cut way back on the 19 human cause of mortality, the hunter, both recreation and 20 subsistence with the Tier II program.

21 22

As everyone's aware -- excuse me, please. As you all know, there's -- we certainly have a lot of predators on the Alaska Peninsula. Again, we have no hard numbers on the wolf population. The indications from local trappers and from local people in general is that wolves certainly are there in substantial numbers, and I don't know the trend. The trend seems, if anything slightly upward. And most -- we're in a situation where we may be carrying a lot of the predators that were on this herd when it was 20,000.

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The bear populations we have a better handle on.
The densities are high, and as you know, both the -- in
terms of the mandates we have as the Fish and Wildlife
Service, it's one of our ANILCA purposes is the brown bear
on the Peninsula. And you're, I'm sure, aware that the
Fish and Game, again I don't know the details of the
management objectives off the top of my head, but they do
manage for a fairly substantial trophy bear hunt if you
will, so those are some of the management mandates we're
looking at on the predators.

43 44

And then again the predators always come to 45 everyone's mind but the information we have especially at 46 the beginning of this decline of the herd indicated that it 47 was the range condition or the forage availability or 48 forage quality that was the limiting factor. And that the 49 data that indicated that are the calf weights are down, the 50 -- you know, they're not as low as they have -- as they're

been in some herds that went into very steep decline, but they're below what they were in this herd, and they're below what's typical of -- you know, well below what's typical of herds that are increasing.

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The -- also with the calves, we see more disease. Now, lung worm prevalence, what -- they did work on this a few years ago, they being the Fish and Game, and the presence of lung worm in the calves has increased. 10 incidence of pneumonia. And again we don't think that it's 11 a disease infestation of itself. It's more that the 12 animals are in poorer condition. They're being born 13 weaker, and they're more susceptible to the diseases that 14 are around anyway, so -- but that's also considered an 15 indication of the poor nutritional condition of the 16 animals.

17

18 Another indicator is the -- the first year the 19 females give come into -- or rather the first year that 20 cows give birth is on average delayed about year. 21 see, in -- and I guess again, I don't have it in front of 22 my, so -- I used to work with another species where they 23 matured a year later, but I -- the data I believe indicate 24 that in a herd that would be in prime condition, and 25 perhaps Andy can help me with this on the Nushagak, I 26 believe with the two-year olds would drop -- perhaps a 27 third or so of the two-year olds would calve, and the 28 three-year olds would 89 or 90 percent calving rates. 29 what we're seeing in this herd is the three-year olds are 30 down to maybe a third or quarter percent calving, and then 31 we get to the four-year olds calving, and we're getting 80 32 or 90 percent. So the prime cows are still calving at 33 reasonable rates, and -- but then, if you will, the first 34 year at which a cow gives a calf in her life is delayed by 35 about a year. So again that's given that cows only have so 36 long a productive life, that again takes out, it takes away 37 from our recruitment, and that's an indication of 38 nutritional stress in that when the female is maturing and 39 they try and they get to a certain age where they can first 40 reproduce, if they're nutritionally stressed, their 41 competing, their bodies can't both reproduce and maintain 42 body growth, and they'll forgo reproduction in order to 43 make sure that they maintain their own, you know, future 44 potential to reproduce, so they'll grow rather than forgo 45 -- you know, they won't come into estrus basically. 46 that's an indication of nutritional stress you'll see in 47 maturing females when they're not on good range. So that's 48 sort of the background I guess of the initial cause of the 49 herd's decline.

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And what information we have available on the range quality is limited. As you heard earlier in Andy's report when they introduced Northern Peninsula animals over the Nushagak, they were wise enough to establish some permanent vegetation transects as well as, excuse me, please -- as well some exclosures so they could see what the vegetation would be if it were not grazed, and then also look at the transects to what it was in the grazed areas.

10 So we have no such background information from when 11 the herd was high or when the herd was growing in the --12 between the 70s and 80s when the herd was on the upswing. 13 We don't have that background vegetation data. We have had 14 some botanists that were very good in my estimation in the 15 field the last three summers, and the obvious take-home 16 information that jumps out at you as I mentioned before is 17 the percent lichen cover on the range throughout the 18 Peninsula they have observed is very low, and lichen are 19 generally considered an important winter forage plant for 20 the caribou, as well as for reindeer and up north. And 21 then in comparison, they looked at Natchamak (ph) Island in 22 the summer of '99 which had not been grazed for a long 23 time, and car -- excuse me, in the same habits, on the 24 tundra habitats and others, the lichen cover there is very, 25 very rich, and in an ungrazed environment. So there 26 should -- you know, in better times, we'd see more of that 27 when the herd is expanding. Now, what we don't have an 28 angle on is the condition of the summer range and what's 29 lacking there.

Pat Valkenberg, as I mentioned before, one of the 32 research biologists who works with us on this herd from 33 Fish and Game, has mentioned to me that it doesn't appear 34 that -- he says in some herds it's obvious, it's either 35 winter or summer range that's limiting. And if the winter 36 range is limiting, you'll see it in the calf weights in the 37 spring, and if summer range and that condition is not 38 limiting then the calves will catch up by the end of 39 summer, and in fall they'll be in good condition. He says 40 with the northern Peninsula herd, as I understood him, it's 41 sort of a balance. It's not that their winter range is 42 horrible, but that your calf weights are, but they're not 43 as low as they see in some places. But then our summer 44 range isn't great to make up the difference, because 45 they're going into the fall a little bit light as well.

So that's sort of my summary of the general 48 situation, and what I understand are the causes. So I'd 49 certainly be happy to entertain any questions.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council members? Okay, Robert?

2 3 4

MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Southern Peninsula caribou herd you said is recuperating?

6 7 8

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MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir. The indications are, as I mentioned in the ratios, the calf weights last -- not this spring of 2000, but spring of '99 as I've mentioned in previous meetings, we work the Fish and Game, and we carried out a calf mortality, a newborn calf mortality study on the Southern Peninsula, and their data from that study were the -- I might have my dates a little bit off, but I think those were the first newborn calf weights they'd had since '89, and the calf weights are quite a bit up.

18 19

They actually had -- that's one thing I forgot to 20 mention, on the Southern Peninsula they had quite a bit of 21 mortality on the newborn calves that we had radio collared. 22 I believe we had more than 40 different calves collared and 23 we had -- there was I believe around 50 percent mortality. 24 I don't have that paper in front of me, in the first 25 couple, three weeks of life, and there was a wolf den right 26 in the middle of the Caribou River flats where we had a lot 27 of the calves collared.

28

29 But their weights were up. And what I wanted to 30 get at in comparison with the Northern herd in the spring 31 of 1998, a year previous to that, we did a similar study 32 areas of the northern herd, working the Sandy River area, 33 that calving area as well as the Cinder River calving area. 34 And there was initially less predation than in the Southern 35 herd in the first two weeks of life, but then he -- Dick 36 Sellers estimations of causes of mortality in the fourth 37 week of life for the calves indicated that they were dying 38 not of predation, but they -- we were getting a significant 39 amount of disease related death, and we weren't -- that 40 wasn't seen so much in the Southern herd. So again, in the 41 comparison, they still are taking a heavy level of predator 42 mortality among the newborn calves, but they're not having 43 the mortality that can be attributed to weak calves, calves 44 not being able to follow their mother, or disease.

45

MR. SAMUELSEN: Pardon me, Mr. Chairman. 47 On your first overhead there, Ron, you said we're down to 48 7,000 -- roughly 7,000 animals in the year 2000, and I 49 think you said it was between 1999 and 2000 was about a 50 1700 drop?

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                   MR. LIND: 1600.
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                   MR. SAMUELSEN: 1600 drop?
                   MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.
7
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. If I was just
   looking at 1999 in the North Peninsula Caribou herd, what
   was the harvest? If I looked at that draft and I added the
10 harvest to that number?
11
12
                   MR. SQUIBB: Well, 1999 was the first year
13 of the Tier II if I read my dos (ph) line. So that was
14 '99, so that count was prior to Tier II, and Tier II plus
15 federal permits were 660 on the harvest, so if you would,
16 there was a human harvest, and we -- again, we don't know
17 what the -- I don't have the equations in front of me.
18 Sellers tends to be the one to manage that. I know -- I
19 can see what you're getting at, but I don't know if you can
20 conclude that the other 1,000 would be predator mortality.
21 You know, I would that it were that easy, because you have
22 to look at recruitment, and other causes of mortality.
23
24
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   And the Tier II area
25 includes South Naknek all the way down the Peninsula?
26
27
                   MR. SQUIBB: All of 9(E).
28
29
                   MR. LONS:
                              9(E).
30
31
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                    All of 9(E).
32
33
                   MR. SQUIBB: And the southern part of 9(C).
34
                                  Both on state and federal
35
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
36 lands?
37
38
                   MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.
39
40
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Those above the Branch.
41
42
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. If this trend
43 continues, you know, and you go back five years, look where
44 we were five years ago, and try to project ahead five
45 years, something drastic is going to have to happen down
46 there.
47
                   MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir. I was talking with
48
49 Mr. Heyano about that. What we don't have is -- we know
50 it's probably vegetation driven, but we're not -- we don't
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have the knowledge, the information available to say when the herd is in equilibrium with the resources. You know, eventually you would see the herd declining, and your classic cyclic population. The population will go down until it's in equilibrium with the resources. There will be enough forage, it will improve the body condition. Their recruit -- the calving weights would go up, survival would go up, and then the herd would start to slowly increase. Now, I can't tell you whether we're in a 10 situation now of where we're at equilibrium now, whether we 11 were at equilibrium two years ago, and we have a predator 12 problem, whether it will be two years before we get into You know, that's -- we can't address the 13 equilibrium. 14 question of whether we're following the vegetation down, or 15 we followed the vegetation down to this point, and the 16 predators are pushing us down further, and until the 17 predator load gets off -- we can't answer that questions, 18 which is the critical question.

19 20

MR. SAMUELSEN: Another comment, Mr. 21 Chairman. Last winter a fellow from Port Heiden called me 22 one day and just right outside of Port Heiden he got five 23 wolves out of Port Heiden, and said there was lots around 24 Port Heiden, and, you know, maybe we've got -- there's not 25 much we could do with the wolves, but we could sure -- I 26 don't know what the bear seasons are down there, or if you 27 can only take one every four years, or whatever, but I 28 think we need to start looking at predator/ prey 29 relationships as we get down to these lower numbers and do 30 what we can to slow down the predator problem. Thank you, 31 Mr. Chairman.

32 33

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yep. Okay. Anything 34 else, Ron?

35

36 MR. SQUIBB: Not unless there are any other 37 questions, sir?
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members? Yes,

39 Robert? Oh, excuse me, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

MS. KELLY: Well, I was just thinking that 42 you need to do a little education in the villages about 43 making sure they only take bulls, and making sure that they 44 have a permit to do that, because I had to remind several 45 people this year in Egegik you can only have a permit to 46 hunt, and you can only take a bull, so -- and I think we 47 need to do a lot more of that on the Peninsula.

48

49 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I think that's being done 50 amongst people now.

MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, I appreciate that I know Dick Sellers' logic on his management comment. approach, and again I don't want to speak for him, as I understand it, Dick is trying to maintain as large a core of primary productive aged females as possible so that when we get into a situation where the -- we hit carrying capacity and the range may recover, that the recovery rate of the herd be as rapid as possible, and that's his logic. And as you said, Shirley, that's what he -- what is 10 appreciated that the harvestable surplus he's calculating 11 out to be the bulls, and he's trying to protect the cows.

12 13

5

7

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, you had a

14 comment?

15 16

MR. HEYANO: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 17 You make the statement here where mortality on the caribou 18 cows was substantial on the radio collared ones. 19 the question to you then is can we carry that number 20 forward, or that scenario forward to apply to the cows that 21 haven't been radio collared?

22

23 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. Yes, and that's 24 generally what we do on average is we presume that the 25 collared animals are representative of the ones that 26 weren't. Now, in the particular year, it was not this 27 winter just past, but the winter previous, and the animals 28 that collared prior to that winter, I don't remember the 29 exact number, 15 plus or minus, I can't recall exactly, but 30 all but one of those died over the winter. And the problem 31 with those animals is, you know, in the calf studies, we're 32 there with the helicopter, and we go out every day and 33 check them, if not twice a day, and then you can get on it 34 and determine what cause, whether it's predation or -- and 35 even what predator it was, if you can get there soon 36 enough, you can determine from the aftermath what -- or 37 rather what species did it. But on these, it's 38 impossible, the signs -- you generally go back and pick up 39 the collar a year or two later, and so it's unknown what 40 the cause was. But the subsequent winter, this last 41 winter, the survival was much better in terms of collared 42 animals, and you get anomalies in -- when you have 43 relatively small numbers of animals collared especially 44 relative to the herd. Don Mix and Pat make a real hard 45 effort to try to distribute the collars throughout the 46 herd, so they try to make it representative, but again I 47 think that's indicative of the potential for predation, but 48 again I don't think we can assign it all to predation. We 49 have pretty good survival, typical survival over this last 50 winter.

1 2

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?

3 5 7

MR. HEYANO: Yes, and then you made the comment I think that, you know, you expect the caribou populations to come down to some certain level and to level out to the resource, but isn't there another scenario where you could get yourself into I think the term is predator pit where the predators are making such an impact that the caribou won't ever come back up?

10 11

MR. SQUIBB: That's correct. And that --12 eventually it -- they would eventually come out, but it 13 would be greatly prolonged, because the predators -- in 14 this situation it would drag on, because you have moose as 15 alternative prey, but, yeah, that's a distinct possibility 16 that we're aware of and Dick Sellers is aware of.

17 18

MR. HEYANO: Do you have any way of 19 determining that if you're in that situation?

20 21

MR. SQUIBB: Given right now our level of 22 information, there would be a lot of -- there's no way 23 where data would jump out at us and say that obviously. 24 think we'd have to take what information we have and make 25 the best deductions we could from it, but we have not data. 26 I was talking earlier, we don't have a handle as you can 27 get up north where you have more stable snow conditions on 28 predation rates by the wolves or on wolf numbers.

29 30

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, Robert?

31 32

MR. HEYANO: Well, just a follow-up 33 comment, the -- and I know you'll get to the moose in your 34 next report, but in -- you know, I look at the mortality on 35 the cows, I look at the mortality on the calves, and I go 36 down and look at his report, and, you know, in this one 37 area around Nugashak Lake, he's -- six calves per 100 cows 38 for moose. I mean, here you have, you know, two different 39 species. I don't think the moose are in disease or 40 anything like that, you know, and I know there's a lot of 41 unknowns out there, we don't for sure, but I think we could 42 make reasonable deductions on what the problem is and what 43 needs to be done to at least help correct some of it. 44 I think, you know, well, Robin touched on it there. 45 we're serious about this, you know, we need to look at the 46 predation factor and start doing something about that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's a really 49 interesting comment, and I think it would be quite a large 50 number of bears and wolves that would have to be affected

to be -- to really begin impacting this predator thing. And Sellers has been really, really sharp about, and I don't want to quote him, because he's not here, but I've talked with him about that, and he almost thinks it would be so big that don't know if it could happen.

5 6 7

MR. SQUIBB: Yeah. Again, this is me

8 playing around with pencil and paper and looking at other

9 reports, and so this is not anything that I -- just to give

10 you generalities, but the density of bears we carry is very

11 high on the Peninsula, as you well know. And the last

12 density estimate we had from Black Lake in 1989, from that

13 vicinity, which is a fairly high density section of the

14 Peninsula, I believe he translated it, and again looking at

15 all bears, and the reports I could show if you're

16 interested, they break it down into bears which counts -
17 you know, cubs of the year, they're with their mother, and,

18 you know, they have a real high mortality rate themselves,

19 so consider that, but I believe we had one bear for every

20 two square miles was the estimate out of that area. And

21 that's a lot. Now,.....

22 23

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's where we pick

24 berries. 25

26 MR. SQUIBB: Now, and that's sort of the 27 estimate we roughly use for the Peninsula. It's ten years 28 old, but that's the estimate we roughly use. And some of 29 the predator control actions that have been taken in Canada 30 and Alaska that have been well documents, in the Interior, 31 and again I'm kind of reaching here, so I don't know if, 32 Andy, or -- do you have any information on this, please 33 help me, but I believe there -- they said for bears they 34 needed to reduce it to one bear per every 36 square miles, 35 which means we'd have to eliminate 1700 or 1800 bears was 36 my rough calculation. And again that's rough. 37 the point I wanted to bring home is on those populations, 38 where they've done a lot of this, or Interior populations 39 where there are really low density bear numbers, and that 40 was on moose, and most of them are moose studies, and 41 caribou they followed was secondary to that. So in that 42 regard, you would have to decimate the bear population.

43

The wolf population similarly you knock the numbers 45 way, way back. You've got to -- and they're starting -- 46 our wolf densities are probably comparable to what was in 47 the Interior, and so there you're knocking them down half 48 or three quarters. And again I'm grasping. I don't know 49 those numbers well. Just glancing at the literature on 50 that. But it would -- for the bears numbers to come into

synch with what's done in the Interior, it would be decimation of population. But the Interior don't have salmon. The -- our bears are -- you know, our density of bears is -- you know, we all know a lot of it's off the salmon population, so what the numbers would be here would not be so great, because we're making -- you know, the resources available to bears are a lot different.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, was there 10 anything else that you had?

11 12

MR. HEYANO: I have hard time following 13 that logic, Mr. Chairman, because from my experiences that 14 information shows that predation, bears and wolves, have an 15 impact of up to roughly 80-some percent, you know, in this 16 case moose and caribou that are killed, you know, and 17 that's kind of statewide, and it's kind of a rough average, 18 or a rough rule of thumb. And what I'm saying is that if 19 we're being told that if we don't do nothing some days 20 things will go like this, and they'll come back up. 21 what I'm saying is, we don't have to decimate the bear 22 population to help the caribou, we don't have to decimate 23 the wolf population to help the caribou. If we reduce it 24 by 30 percent or 40 percent, that's going to be a positive 25 impact for those populations to recover, you know, and 26 maybe instead of 15 years, maybe they will do it in ten. 27 don't know. But it's got to be a positive impact. I don't 28 think you have to go to that degree.....

29 30

MR. SQUIBB: That's....

31 32

MR. HEYANO:to do that.

33 34

MR. SQUIBB: I guess looking at the ones --35 excuse me, those studies where they -- or the projects
36 where they have gone in and done real intensive management,
37 and that's what they did, and they got a fairly rapid
38 response in those situations. That was -- again, I just
39 want to tell you, the comparison with the Interior, because
40 we've got the salmon resource here, like you were saying, I
41 think there would be a balance here.

42

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robin, do you have 44 any other comments?

45

MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I -- yeah, and I 47 agree with Mr. Heyano's comments. You know, we have -- 48 under Title VIII, we have a trust responsibility to -- 49 we're an extension of the federal government sitting on 50 this RAC, and our job is to protect and make sure

subsistence users are afforded an equal opportunity to harvest the resources that they customary and traditionally have harvested. I think we have taken the -- one of the major steps we took was pushing for Tier II in this area to cut down on the harvest. And that was the easiest thing to do. Now it's time to start looking at probably increasing the bear take on the Peninsula. Maybe longer seasons. Instead of one every four years, one every year. You 9 know, those little subtle changes over time would have a 10 very positive impact, so I don't know, maybe this RAC needs 11 to submit a proposal both to Federal Subsistence Board and 12 the Board of Game in this area, because -- I mean, that's a 13 terrible picture in my estimation, and based on the local 14 knowledge that I'm hearing from the people along the 15 Peninsula on the predator situation, especially in the area 16 of wolves, and you just confirmed it on bears, that with 17 the resource dwindling like that, there's really nothing we 18 can do but watch -- sit here and watch figures go down in 19 the current situation, so.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Liberalizing the bear 22 season and numbers and those type of things I'm sure would 23 have a positive effect on at least helping bring back that 24 -- There's something wrong when also a calf can be killed 25 by a bald eagle. I understand a golden eagle can kill a 26 calf, but when a bald eagle kills a calf, there's got to be 27 some real serious factors in there, too, that, you know, 28 the health of the animal that I'm sure you're working on.

29 30

How many -- do you know how many animals were taken 31 by Tier II last year? Do you know how many animals were 32 taken by Tier II? The Tier II permits, how many caribou 33 were killed on the Peninsula?

34 35

MR. SQUIBB: I haven't seen the reports. 36 -- the -- I'd wait for Dick Sellers to answer that 37 question. The data went to his office.

38 39

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So Alaska Department of 40 Fish and Game is the one who keeps those records?

41 42

MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

43

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: ADF&G? 44 Okay. Is there 45 anyone here for ADF&G that knows those answers? No? Okay. 46 Any other questions?

47

48 MR. HEYANO: Just a comment, Mr. Chairman. 49 I think if the Council does decide to do something, that 50 this would be the appropriate time, because the proposal

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  deadline on the state regulatory board is the 8th of
  December.
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                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would you like to write a
5
 proposal between now and 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning?
6
  Yeah, Robin?
7
8
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   I'd like to ask staff, what
   is the -- what is it, one every four years, a bear on the
10 Alaska Peninsula?
11
12
                   MR. KOEPSAL: Yeah, that's correct.
13
14
                                   Who has the regulations?
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
15
16
                   MR. KOEPSAL: For sports hunter, yes.
17 There are subsistence management areas where you can take
18 one bear a year. (Indiscernible)
19
20
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Does he need to come up
21 here?
22
23
                   COURT REPORTER:
                                    He is soft.
24
25
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, he needs to come to
26 come up to the mike,
27
28
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                          It's one every four
                                   Okay.
29 year, and I need to know the seasons.
30
                                     I think it's about ten
31
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
32 days or so.
33
34
                   MR. ABRAHAM: Six months.
35
36
                   MR. KOEPSAL: Mark Koepsal, I'm deputy
37 refuge manager.
                    One of the comments that I would like to
38 make, you know, in the discussion of predator management,
39 the first thing you want to make sure is that it's
40 predators that are causing the problem, which means you
41 generally want your calf weights to be good, you'd want to
42 do a vegetation study to make sure that it's not your range
43 that's doing it, because if you go in and do a highly
44 controversial predator control, and it's range and food
45 that's really limiting your herd, then you're not going to
46 achieve anything. Because if the animals don't have enough
47 food, they're not reproducing because of nutrition and that
48 way, so the first thing you really want to look at is to
49 make sure that the calf weights are good, that they're
50 healthy, and that it's not range that's causing your
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25 26

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39

animals to continue to decline.

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't necessarily agree with you on that, because the range may be declining, the 5 animals are declining because you do have a big increase in predator population. I mean, I fly this Peninsula every 7 day, there's other pilots in here who fly this Peninsula every day. We've seen the bear population increase. went moose hunting this years. We didn't see any moose, 10 but we saw five or six bears. And they are -- the 11 predators are increasing. They are taking a toll, I would 12 assume, on the animals. And I guess your logic would be, 13 well, we've got to have the numbers, but my logic is it's a 14 management plan as well to bring back a food source, you 15 know. I really would be careful about going out and 16 slaughtering a lot of bears, because that's a management 17 plan as well, you know. And if you don't have any hard 18 numbers I guess to say this is what's happening to the 19 animals, maybe we're in the dark. When you see the wolf --20 when you go out and see -- when you see 17 wolves out of a 21 Cherokee 6, there's a lot of wolves some place. 22 help me, there are bears everywhere. Behind every bush. 23 Anybody else? Comment? But that's good, we want this kind 24 of feedback and comment. Appreciate it.

MR. KOEPSAL: I'm agreeing, yes, there are 27 a lot of predators, and that's a concern. But also when we 28 -- what we're saying is we don't have the information to 29 know how many animals the range can support in its present 30 condition, so we don't know if we're at the point where the 31 herd is declining because of the food source, the range, 32 the lichens and the vegetation. So there's a possibility 33 that you could eliminate the predators, and the population 34 wouldn't rebound, because there's not enough food out there 35 to feed it.

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Um-hum. Okay. Robin, do 38 you have a comment?

MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, but we do know as a 41 RAC and local representatives of our region that 42 subsistence needs aren't being met, and that we have a --43 the important resource that's in a crash-diving mode, and 44 I've been on this Council since its inception, and just 45 because the issue isn't sexy doesn't mean this Council 46 won't take it on. And if we think that we need to 47 liberalize the bear seasons and increase that harvest a 48 little bit to try and get some relief for these caribou, 49 which are mightily important for the subsistence users on 50 Alaska Peninsula, I think this Council will gladly welcome

00110 the heat whoever wants to give it to us. 3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, sir, Robert? 4 5 MR. HEYANO: Well, I just a follow-up 6 comment, Mr. Chairman, that if we followed the scenario 7 that was presented to us, we don't know if it's -- if the range or there isn't enough food for them, then why did we restrict the subsistence hunter? I mean, if we're going to 10 follow that logic, let's take the Tier II off, let's have 11 the season run from August until April, and let the 12 subsistence hunters go and harvest caribou. You know, the 13 best information shows that the humans take about 12 14 percent, predation dates 80-some percent. Why do we neck 15 down the 12 percent and let the 80 go unrestricted, so..... 16 17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. I think it's 18 called political pressure, too, and in a sense, you know, 19 deals with that issue. Any other comments, Council members 20 on the North Peninsula caribou herd? Well, gentlemen --21 okay, go ahead. 22 23 MR. SAMUELSEN: I would request the season 24 dates for bear hunting? 25 26 MR. KOEPSAL: The.... 27 28 MR. SAMUELSEN: It's one every four years? 29 30 MR. KOEPSAL: One every four years. 31 generally -- when they have it, they have a spring and then 32 a fall and then a rest period, and they just -- last year I 33 believe they extended it, the bear season, for a week, but 34 the current regs will show that it's -- there's no open 35 season, because we're now in the rest. They had a spring 36 hunt and a fall, now you -- you don't hunt. But there is a 37 subsistence bear season in the Chignik area that's a bear 38 every year for subsistence purposes, not sport hunting, and 39 that's open -- and there's one on the Big Creek, Naknek 40 River drainage, which is September 1st through October 31st 41 that goes on every year, but again it's a one harvest for 42 every four years if you do harvest one. But it's a season 43 that's open every year, whereas on the bears it's like 44 there is no fall season this year. 45 46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's every other year, 47 yeah. 48 49 MR. KOEPSAL: It's every other year. 50 was a fall and then a spring, and then there is no fall

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   season. But again it's a sport season, you're only allowed
   to take one bear every four years.
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4
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                  Why is that?
5
6
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
                                     To make them bigger.
7
8
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Trophy animal.
9
10
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
                                     Yeah.
11
12
                   MR. KOEPSAL: It's the state that sets
13 that, and I really don't know their justification.
14
15
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   Thank you.
16
17
                   MR. HEYANO: Well, Mr. Chairman?
18
19
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead, Robert.
20
21
                   MR. HEYANO: If I may, it's my
22 understanding that the North Peninsula is managed primarily
23 for trophy bears.
24
25
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Oh, there's no other
26 reason to cull (ph) the bears.
27
28
                   MR. HEYANO: And that's why your regulation
29 is such that it is, as Johnny says, it's to have a lot of
30 big bears. Trophy bears.
31
32
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Can I have that regulation
33 book? I might have some homework tonight.
34
35
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Along that same line
36 while the regulation book is coming front,....
37
38
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   Thank you.
39
40
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....I realize that I
41 believe it's the Kamchatka Peninsula over in Russia, they
42 have certainly reduced the cost of taking a bear in that
43 area, and some of our guides that I've -- that are on the
44 Alaska Peninsula have had a hard time booking any increased
45 numbers for some bears, because they're -- instead of
46 $10,000 on the Alaska Peninsula, they're $5,000 over in
47 Russia, if they're still allowing that, and, you know, it's
48 day to day. So there may not be a big interest in getting
49 more bears, but it might be worth our while to give this
50 some serious thought, because I think that's also a
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   management tool. Any other thoughts before we go to Steller's eider? Or is that all we have under the refuge
3
   now as far as.....
4
5
                   MR. HEYANO:
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7
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                      Oh, okay.
                                                  I'll get into
8
   -- are there any other questions?
                                       Okay.
10
                    MR. SQUIBB: Thank you. Ron Squibb again
11 with Alaska Peninsula Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
12 Service. And the moose report will be much briefer.
13
14
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                      Maybe.
15
16
                   MR. SQUIBB: Got lots less information.
17 the RAC book under our report, on page five there's a
18 table, and these are all of the recent surveys we did, the
19 moose trend area surveys in recent years. Excuse me.
20 Again Dick Sellers manages a book (ph) by all trend areas
21 by whether U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service flew it, Park
22 Service flew it, or the ADF&G flew it. And these trend
23 areas I guess are areas that we count periodically.
24 there are some in here that are newer trend areas, and
25 those are Anchor and Evan Bays down on the Pacific side in
26 the Chignik unit, and as well as in Black Lake. I listed
27 them in this table as potential trend areas. The one in
28 Black Lake looked like it would be a good on in '98 and we
29 flew it last year and the moose tended not to be in it.
30 Trend areas are an area where you can consistently get
31 about 100 animals so you get good ratios. And the counts
32 are important, but the bull/cow ratio, the calf/cow ratio
33 is sort of the more important piece of information used
34 again by Fish and Game in determining their seasons and bag
35 limits and the trend of the population in the area. So I
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41 animals move through, and they don't move down through for 42 the winter and stay in the -- you know, the 43 November/December period where we get a good count on a

44 regular basis and not have too much noise in it.

36 guess what we'll -- we'll continue to try and check the 37 Black Lake area, and that's particularly the Chignik, west 38 fork of the Chignik River, that side as well as the other 39 side towards Cathedral Creek and Alec River. And during 40 December see if it is stable, if that's an area where the

45 Anchor/Evan, the drainage pattern itself, and being right

46 up against the ocean makes it look like that might turn

47 into a real good trend area. We got real good number and

48 real good ratios last year in terms of calves per 100 cows 49 and bulls per 100 cows. Then you can see some of the other

50 areas we've done over the period. And I guess in general

we have -- don't have real large calf/cow ratios, but we have -- again falling back on Dick Sellers' expertise he feels we've got sufficient calves to maintain the population.

5 6

7

A brief history of the population. It peaked in the late 60s, early 70s, and then when they did in the mid 80s do some range analysis, browse analysis of their habitat, and it appeared that the population had 10 overbrowsed their range and the numbers went down 11 dramatically during that period and stabilized, and we're 12 at that point of stabilization now. And the population, --13 again, I don't -- I haven't been here long enough to know, 14 and I don't know if anyone -- there hasn't been an 15 estimate, a density estimate for the Peninsula as a whole 16 for some time, since it was -- the last one that was done, 17 which is after the decline, and -- but the trend areas seem 18 to indicate that the numbers are more or less stable. 19 if you have any specific questions, that's the short moose 20 report.

21 22

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council 23 members? You casually said there hasn't been a count for a 24 long time?

25 26

MR. SQUIBB: There hasn't been -- excuse 27 me, these are trend areas. I could show you a map if 28 you're interested. I do have an overhead on that of where 29 they are. I'll go and show that in a moment, but the 30 -- they have -- we have methods that are more intensive 31 where we can get a better estimate of the density. 32 other words, like with the bears, I said in 1989 they did a 33 very sophisticated survey where they radio collared some of 34 the bears and they would basically look -- go and survey 35 the area, and get the ratio of radio collared bears they 36 saw when they didn't have a receiver on. They would fly 37 over, they'd see a bear, turn on the receive, see if that 38 one was one that was radio collared or not. In other 39 words, they weren't using radios to help them find bears, 40 and then they'd get the ratio of radio collared to nonradio 41 collared within an area, and from that through some fairly 42 sophisticated statistics, they came up with an estimate 43 that allowed me to say in 1989 we estimated there was one 44 bear for every two square miles in the Black Lake area.

45

46 Now, what we have on our trends counts, --47 similarly they can do things with moose in terms of getting 48 trend estimates, and the method they use is different than 49 the one they use for bears. It's an intensive survey 50 method with Super Cubs, and there are other options for

28

29

that, but they're methods that give you a number that is a little more reliable. There's less noise in it if you will. What we do with the tend areas, we're not trying -again, the trend areas were done before and after the last, and I apologize, I can't remember the year, the last year they did the Gazaway method is what they call it for moose 7 density estimate in the central part of the Alaska Peninsula. And these trend area counts are done periodically to look at a number, but as, if not more 10 importantly the ratios of bulls to cows and calves to cows 11 in terms of looking at how the population's faring. And so 12 these -- as you see, these are the ones that Fish and 13 Wildlife Service has done. And the Park Service similarly 14 they tend to fly Angle/Takiota (ph), and they've done that 15 for years. The Park Service also flies park border area, 16 which is just right out here, Granite Peak area, which the 17 Fish and Game used to do, and the Park has assumed that in 18 recent years, and similarly this open (ph) area and 19 Aniakchak we have some areas we tend to fly, like Kejulik, 20 and then we also help the Fish and Game with the 21 traditional areas that they established years ago. 22 share and figure who can fly what or who -- what we can get 23 to, and then we're trying to establish some new ones 24 further down the Chignik Unit to get information on that 25 related to some of the initiatives we had, proposals we had 26 a couple years ago. 27

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Um-hum.

MR. SQUIBB: So these things are sort of 31 monitoring, getting the trend of the population in terms of 32 composition, and numbers, but we haven't done if you will 33 an over all intensive estimate to get a density in the 34 winter habitat.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: See, that's the point I'm driving at. It really was really nice to have I think it was four of the six votes at the Federal Board when we decided to shut down the moose hunting in the Chignik Lakes area, and the guides were sitting in the back sleeping, you know, and all of a suddenly they found out they weren't going to have any moose hunting season, that the Federal Board said there would be no hunting, you know, and you double they do not be not be crank up the next day in the Park Service and the refuge service, because the lower Peninsula is kind of treated like a red headed to stepchild. Run out of money, run out of time, we don't have the weather. You poor guys, why don't we just leave you sitting down there, and that's where you're at. And I think that maybe you ought to start down there and work

back up here. And for the State of Alaska and for the Federal people as well, and the Park Service, whoever else was involved, go down to -- what's that guy's name with a cigar in his mouth all the time?

5 6

Mel Tillis. MR. CHRISTENSEN:

7 8

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Mel. Well, starting with him way down there and work back up to Aniakchak, and -- or 10 Ugashak, and then tell the guys in King Salmon, sorry, we 11 don't have money left for you guys in your -- you know, 12 Becharof -- I mean, up at the Branch area to do your moose 13 survey, and you can just sit at home. You'd find it a 14 little bit different, and I know that. And I was hoping 15 Sellers would be here because he's one of the main guys 16 that need to be talked to about that. We've got to -- I 17 think -- and I think you have somewhat of a moose 18 population, you know, but I don't think that we've really 19 been fair, and it's probably not your fault, but maybe it's 20 your boss's fault that we haven't looked at this thing like 21 we really should look at it. I mean, in all fairness to 22 the subsistence user, and the people in the Chigniks say 23 there are no moose, and then the guides say there are all 24 kinds of moose, and we had a count -- I think the last 25 count was in May 3rd or 4th or 5th, something like that, a

26 couple years ago. 27 28

MR. SQUIBB: Well, that -- again, that was 29 just -- again as you correctly stated, that was in response 30 to just to see how many were down at that time of the year, 31 but it was not -- again, that was not an intensive survey. 32 That....

33 34

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No. No.

35 36

MR. SQUIBB:was a reconnaissance

37 survey. 38

39

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It was -- no, it was the 40 wrong time of year. I think when the snow is available and 41 that type of thing exists, it may take camping out on Boris 42 Kosbrooks for about four days to figure out how many moose 43 are in the Perryville area, but those are things -- I think 44 things we need to look at to find out where these.....

45

46 MR. SQUIBB: Well, since we're on that 47 subject, let me pull out the graph -- or rather the map of 48 trend areas. This moving the mirror is kind of hard to 49 pull off.

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00116
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                   MR. O'HARA: Ron, can I say something?
2
3
                   MR. SQUIBB:
                                Sure.
4
5
                   MR. O'HARA: Good evening, Council, may I
6
  say something?
7
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't think so, but I
9 -- maybe, you know, maybe somebody in the back who would
10 like to say something.
11
12
                   MR. O'HARA: In support of the study that
13 -- or the surveys that Ron was doing, I assisted in some of
14 the flying, and the areas that we targeted first were the
15 farthest areas away, and if we had weather for the farthest
16 areas away, we did those first. We worked with whatever
17 area we had that had decent weather. And Orville can
18 attest to the lousy weather that we flew into to get the
19 final surveys done in the closest areas even. So we did go
20 as far away as we could and then work our way back with
21 three different agencies flying all at the same time.
22
23
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What time of the year was
24 that, Tom?
25
26
                   MR. O'HARA: November and December.
27
28
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You had snow -- you had
29 snow coverage and that type of thing?
30
31
                   MR. O'HARA: We finally had snow in
32 November and then we had a lot of weather problems.
33
34
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. What areas did you
35 cover?
36
37
                   MR. O'HARA: I helped out with part of
38 Aniakchak, part of -- or all of the King Salmon River/Big
39 Creek area, in that area, and.....
40
41
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: King Salmon River going
42 into the....
43
44
                   MR. O'HARA: Way up into the park and
45 to....
46
47
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: King Salmon River
48 meaning.....
49
50
                   MR. O'HARA: Tokioto.
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00117
1
                   MR. SOUIBB:
                                 Tokioto.
2
3
                                Yeah, Tokioto, and.....
                   MR. O'HARA:
4
5
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Drain into the Ugashak?
7
                   MR. O'HARA: .....Contact Creek area.
8
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Did anybody get to
10 Tillis' place or Chigniks or Ivanof or Perryville?
11
12
                   MR. O'HARA: Yeah, they.....
13
14
                                      They did?
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
15
16
                   MR. O'HARA: .....they made it down there.
17 Yeah.
18
19
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I may have to make
20 a public apology then I guess here. Okay. I'll do that,
21 too, whatever it takes.
22
23
                   MR. O'HARA:
                                 That's all right. That's -- I
24 just had one -- to make one comments.
25
26
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Tom.
27
28
                   MR. SQUIBB: Okay. Again, we appreciate
29 your wanting us to get more information down, and we're
30 trying to address that, because you are correct, the 31 traditional trend areas are -- I'll try and get out of the
32 way of the audience, but those are the traditional trend
33 areas here going that direction. The Fish and Game trend
34 areas are -- is that in decent focus for you guys back
35 there?
36
37
                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Close enough.
38
39
                   MR. SQUIBB: Close enough? Okay. Are the
40 Pacific trend area, and again that's the only long term one
41 on the Pacific coast, and it's again from Nakalilok Bay,
42 the Yantarni and Amber Bay. Covers those drainages.
43 then going -- then on the -- again, this is considered the
44 core area for moose habitat, and for, you know, high
45 quality or moderate quality habitat for moose in the
46 central part of the Alaska Peninsula, and that's where they
47 maintain their longer trend areas. Again, I apologize,
48 Dick Sellers would do a better job of this. He's been
49 doing it for 20 years, but, you know, so take whatever I
50 say with a grain of salt. It's my understanding. When
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46 47

49 50

they were here. So that includes the Cinder River again. And again these are November/December trend areas. flying them before the moose drop their antlers, and when the snow conditions are good, so we can get good, consistent sightability. And then again there's this -they call them flat sections which is where the King Salmon River and the Dog Salmon Rivers come together, and that was set in the Mother Goose Lake/Container Creek area. Salmon trend area, and then the Ugashiks trend area, which 10 we counted all the low calf ratios right in there. A very 11 large area, but really it's outside of the core prime 12 habitat. Curiously we got some real good numbers last 13 winter at the Blue Mountain trend area right here. 14 Kajulik trend area was established by the Fish and Wildlife 15 Service, again where -- I can't remember how many years 16 ago, when they were trying to establish some trends area, 17 but we could cover. And then this is a real long term Fish 18 and Game trend area there called Park Boundary. Granite 19 Peak and that vicinity. Right close to town here. And I 20 did not, I apologize to the Park Service, I did not draw in 21 their areas. Traditionally this Angle/Takayofo area, which 22 is the headwaters of the King Salmon River drainage. 23 --- and also they just last winter started working on an 24 Aniakchak River trend area, which would be something out at 25 Aniakchak Bay. I don't have the boundaries. So those are 26 the trend areas. 27

28 Now, again, in response to the need for information 29 in the Chignik Unit, we started working on this area, the 30 Black what we call Black Lake here, to try to see if that's 31 going to be a good area, is it consistent? Are the moose 32 going to be -- is that an area moose move through? 33 catch them there or we don't? Is it in that area where 34 they congregate dependently in winter? And then it seems 35 like here, the Anchor/Evan Bay drainages, down here near 36 Perryville, we worked that in May of 1999, and as you 37 mentioned, Mr. Chairman, we flew that, and found quite a 38 few moose there, so we went back there next winter, and got 39 the ratios, and there were still quite a few -- there were 40 a lot of moose in that vicinity. And you can look on the 41 table in terms of just rough estimates of square miles on 42 this, but the last column is moose per square mile and 43 Anchor/Evan's up there above one, and there aren't that 44 many other areas that hit that very often from last year's 45 count. So that looks like it's got good potential.

And then we also would like to get down to Stepovak 48 Bay and try and see that area as well.

In addition to the trend areas in response to the

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00119
  need for information, the last two winters, flying -- Dick
  Sellers chartered and I flew along as an observer, last
  winter we flew from -- just to get more Pacific Coast
  information, we flew doing a trend area like survey, but
5
  not in a traditional trend area. Basically it flying to
  get composition, you know, ratios, bull/cow, cow/calf
7
  ratios. We from Nakiliak (ph) Bay around to the Wide Bay
8 before we had to go pour some more fuel in the tank. And
9 then the previous year, in November/December '99 we flew
10 from the edge of the Pacific trend area, we flew Aniakchak
11 and around all the way to -- wait a minute. Yeah, all the
12 way around to Chignik River drainage, and then we broke off
13 there for fuel. So we're trying to address those issues
14 and making -- you know, putting more energy into trying to
15 work the Chignik Unit.
16
17
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What do you have for next
18 -- the rest of this -- if you were to have a count this
19 November/December, where would you look? Or are you.....
20
21
                  MR. SQUIBB: Again,....
22
23
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....pretty finished now?
24
25
                   MR. SQUIBB: As Tom said, my priorities are
26 to try and get down here, because.....
27
28
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
29
30
                   MR. SQUIBB: .....we don't have
31 information. I want to see if these areas are going to
32 work out, and I want to get to Stepovak. But if we fly out
33 of here and we get icing conditions at Port Heiden, which
34 is not uncommon when the snow's good and the winds are good
35 enough to let you on that side to survey, if we get icing
36 there, we're going to try and pick up something else.
37 We'll break to the Dog Salmon or Mother Goose. So.....
38
39
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Well, good.
40 Thanks. I probably without a doubt owe you an apology
41 for....
42
43
                   MR. SQUIBB: Well, I think -- I appreciate
44 your wanting us to get information there, because.....
45
46
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
47
48
                   MR. SQUIBB: .....we need better
49 information in that area,.....
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00120
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: To (indiscernible -
2
   simultaneous speech).
3
4
                   MR. SQUIBB: .....we're shy on that, and we
5 need better long term information to address the issues
6
  you're talking about.
7
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.
8
                                              Any other
  questions from the Council on that issue?
                                              Does that take
10 care of it then, Ron, as far as moose go.
11
12
                   MR. SOUIBB: That's all I know.
13
14
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I see Brelsford made it
15 here just about dinner time, so, Taylor, you're doing good.
16
17
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Best pizza in the world.
18
19
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. I think if
20 it's okay with the Council, we'll break for dinner?
21
22
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
23
24
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Come back about
25 7:15/7:20, is that okay? The D&D's across the street
26 there, and then we'll do the Steller's after that, if
27 that's okay, Sue, and then -- and if we don't have anything
28 further, then we'll continue on with Taylor's report then.
29
30
           (Off record - 6:05 p.m.)
31
32
           (On record - 7:54 p.m.)
33
34
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Again, we'd call the
35 meeting back to order.
36
37
                   COURT REPORTER: You're on the record.
38
39
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: On record. Okay. Oh,
40 there she is. All right. We're going to deal with the
41 Steller eider?
42
43
                   MS. DETWILER: Yes.
44
45
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That will be good.
46 All right. Thank you.
47
48
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Migratory bird. Migratory
49 birds.
50
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00121 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And this is -- you're 1 2 ready? 3 4 MS. DETWILER: Ready? 5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we're ready. 7 yeah. 8 9 MS. DETWILER: Okay. My name is Sue I'm with the Fish and Wildlife Service, 10 Detwiler. 11 Endangered Species Program in Anchorage. And thank you, 12 Mr. Chair, and members of the Council. 13

14

23 24

My agenda item tonight is proposed critical habitat 15 for the Steller's eider in Alaska. And I think probably 16 most everybody on the Council knows that Fish and Wildlife 17 Service proposed to designate critical habitat for the 18 Steller's eider and the spectacled eider earlier this year. 19 The spectacled eider to my knowledge does not come down 20 into the Bristol Bay region, and we certainly didn't 21 propose critical habitat in the Bristol Bay region, so my 22 comments are focused on the Steller's eider.

The Steller's eider is an arctic and subarctic sea It breeds primarily on the North Slope, but some 26 individual do nest in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. In the 27 falltime they move down to the lagoons and the bays north 28 of the Alaska Peninsula to molt, and most of them in the 29 wintertime then move on south of the Alaska Peninsula over 30 into the Aleutians, and as far east as Katchamak Bay where 31 they spend the winter. And then in the springtime they 32 head back up north, staging in the Kuskokwim shoals area to 33 the north, and the south of Kuskokwim Bay.

34 35 The Endangered Species Act requires us to designate 36 critical habitat for species at the time that it's listed. 37 When we listed the Steller's eider as threatened back in 38 1997, we did not designate critical habitat for it. 39 was in keeping with our general Fish and Wildlife Service 40 approach at the time that designation of critical habitat 41 did not add anything in terms of protection to the species. 42 We felt that at the time of listing, the fact that it was 43 listed was where most if not all of the benefits of listing 44 accrued. In other words, at the time that it's listed, the 45 species is -- take of that species is prohibited. We have 46 to -- federal agencies have to consult with us if any of 47 their activities may affect the listed species. We have to 48 prepare recovery plans and that sort of thing. So we felt 49 that most of the protections accrued by virtue of the fact 50 that it was listed, and very little, if any, protections

accrued by designating critical habitat, so we did not designate critical habitat for this and most other species that we listed in the U.S.

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7

Unfortunately, the environmental groups disagreed with us, and they sued multiple times challenging our decisions not to designate critical habitat. And they sued us multiple times, we lost consistently. The courts agreed with the environmental groups and have now set forth 10 general court direction was -- which is that we will 11 designate critical habitat when a species is listed, and 12 that will be the rule rather than the exception. 13 now on according to the recent -- according to the 14 framework that the courts have established, we pretty much 15 have to designate critical habitat at the time a species is 16 listed.

17

18 In March of last year we were sued for our earlier 19 decision to not designate critical habitat. It was the 20 Center for Biological Diversity and Christians Caring for 21 Creation filed a suit against us challenging our decision 22 to not designate critical habitat. Our attorneys advised 23 us in light of the court rulings that rather than spend our 24 resources on litigation that would probably not be decided 25 in our favor, we should enter into a settlement agreement, 26 so -- with the plaintiffs. So we did that. And the 27 settlement agreement required us to reevaluate critical 28 habitat for the two eider species, and make a -- if we were 29 going to designate critical habitat as a result of that 30 reevaluation, then we would do so by the first of -- or 31 January the 5th of 2001. So this year in March we issued a 32 proposal to designate critical habitat, and I earlier 33 passed around the information packet that hopefully you all 34 have. It contains maps and some briefing information on 35 Steller's eider and critical habitat.

36 37

Basically the areas that we propose to designate as 38 critical habitat were the breeding areas on the North Slope 39 and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, the staging areas outside of 40 Kuskokwim Bay, and the molting and wintering areas along 41 the Alaska Peninsula, and then out at -- towards the 42 Aleutian Islands as well as east towards Kachemak Bay.

43 44

So the comment period on the proposal ended on 45 September the 25th, and right now we're in the process of 46 analyzing all the comments and developing the final rule 47 for critical habitat designation. And that should be final 48 by January 5th of next year.

49 50

So that concludes my formal presentation.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Council members, do you have any questions? Sue, I had one -- excuse me, Robert, I'm sorry, go ahead.

4 5

MR. HEYANO: Go ahead.

6 7

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, go ahead.

8

MR. HEYANO: I would like to know what does 10 the critical habitat designation do to the people who 11 reside in those areas? What does that -- how does that 12 impact them?

13

14 MS. DETWILER: From Fish and Wildlife 15 Service protection -- or Fish and Wildlife Service's 16 perspective, it doesn't do a whole lot. The only 17 regulatory affect of a critical habitat designation is that 18 if there -- a federal agency -- if a federal agency is 19 going to permit, fund, or carry out an activity, they have 20 to consult with us, if either the species is in the area, 21 or if there's critical habitat to make sure that their 22 activity isn't going to jeopardize the continued existence 23 of that species. So the bottom line is that there's --24 Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires federal 25 agencies to consult with us when they have activities in 26 the areas where Steller's eider are, and basically they 27 have to confer with us, tell us what their activities are, 28 and we work with them to make sure that there's no adverse 29 effects on that species. They're already required to 30 consult with us by virtue of the fact that its listed, and 31 so we're -- we've already been consulting with National 32 Marine Fishery Service, EPA, Corps of Engineers and so on. 33 And our position is that we've already been consulting, and 34 any consultation that we will continue to be doing will 35 simply have an addendum or something within that 36 consultation that addresses critical habitat.

37 38

39

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin?

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Isn't it under Section 7 41 that say I'm from the community of Nelson Lagoon, and we're 42 going build a dock down there. And the burden of proof 43 under Section 7 is upon the City of Nelson Lagoon to prove 44 that they're not going to have an adverse effect on Steller 45 eiders. Isn't that how the process works?

46 47

MS. DETWILER: That -- yes, although I 48 would say that it's the burden of proof is on the federal 49 agency, and, you know, obviously they work with the City of 50 Nelson Lagoon. And I guess I would go further to say that

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00124
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we're already consulting on a lot of projects down here, and to my knowledge there hasn't been one project in the State of Alaska that has been stopped as a result of a consultation. We basically work with the agencies to make sure that they can do what they want to do, but in a way 5 that least effects the eiders as possible. 7

MR. SAMUELSEN: Sure it wasn't Steller 9 sealions? It seemed like the same map with Steller 10 sealions.

11 12

8

MS. DETWILER: Yeah. Yes, we watched that, 13 too. We watch the fisheries shut down because of the 14 Steller sea lion, and here -- we - there's not much we can 15 do to control what the courts do.

16

17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just one more comment. The 18 tribes north of Egegik all the way over to Togiak has 19 deemed Bristol Bay air space non-enterable by Steller 20 eider, so you're map's correct.

21 22

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But the other one shows 23 it going all the way up in there.

24 25

MR. SAMUELSEN: No, that's community.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I'm sure glad we got that 28 squared away in a hurry. Robert? I didn't mean to cut you 29 off, Robert, if you had more. I'll take two.....

30 31

MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Can you tell us what 32 caused the decline on Steller Island? I mean, Steller 33 eiders?

34

35 MS. DETWILER: They don't know for sure 36 what caused the decline. Some of the speculation is maybe 37 lead shot ingestion, maybe predation, and predation up --38 and nesting success up on the North Slope. They've got 39 some studies going on right now to look at predation by 40 foxes, and then look at the success of the eggs that are 41 hatched up there to see what they can discern from that. 42 There's some speculation maybe it's the decadal 43 oscillations, you know, just plain environmental change 44 that's out of our hands. But the bottom line is that they 45 don't know.

46

47 I think I can totally suspect MR. ABRAHAM: 48 the decline -- or the cause of the decline. Remember that 49 -- the major spill we had in Prince William Sound? Not 50 only Steller eiders, but there's the old squaw that

00125 migrate,.... 2 3 Uh-huh. MS. DETWILER: 4 5 MR. ABRAHAM:and there's that other 6 bird that feeds in the springtime, harlequin? 7 8 MS. DETWILER: Harlequin? 9 10 MR. ABRAHAM: Harlequin, yeah. 11 another decline right there. That's noticeable in Togiak 12 Bay in the springtime, because Steller eiders, we used to 13 watch them passing by, you know, they were kind of, you 14 know, got to be a nuisance when I wait for king eiders to 15 come by. And after that spill, we noticed old squaws and 16 these birds over here, I mean, the decline was noticeable 17 right there, you know. We don't see much on -- in the 18 springtime by Kipnuk, Kwigillingok, Chefornak area, there's 19 some mud flats that stretch about maybe 30 miles. In low 20 tide you can see when they take off, it's just like smoke. 21 So I called over there several times, you know, it sounded 22 like, you know, just the, you know, after that oil spill, 23 you know, there was quite a bit of decline. You know, we 24 don't -- we noticed that, too. So that might be the cause 25 of it. 26 27 MS. DETWILER: So long-term effects from 28 like chronic oiling as a result of the spill. 29 30 That's a possibility right MR. ABRAHAM: 31 there. That's all I've got. 32 33 John, did you have a CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 34 comment? 35 36 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah, but there's been a 37 decline in every -- we call them saltwater ducks, the sea 38 ducks, not the only Steller. Every bird. And you said 39 lead shot? You'd have to shoot a clam to give a Steller 40 eider lead shot. They eat clams. 41 42 MS. DETWILER: Yeah. What I -- my 43 understanding is that the lead -- the spent lead shot sits 44 on the bottom where they forage, and when they're picking 45 up clams or whatever else they're eating, they accidently 46 pick up lead, and it resides in their liver, and it is 47 chronically toxic to them. 48 49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, you've done a good 50 job of brainwashing my grandkids, because I can't use lead

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00126
  shot any more. So.....
3
                   MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.
4
5
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I mean, they walk in the
6
  house and do a big inspection. Got to fasten my seatbelt.
7
  What's this world's coming to anyway, Sue? Any other
  questions here, Council members? Well, thank you. I had
8
9 one question, just a curious one. When do they molt?
10
11
                   MS. DETWILER: When?
12
13
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. What time of the
14 year?
15
                   MS. DETWILER: I believe it's late fall
16
17 like.....
18
19
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN: About now.
20
21
                  MS. DETWILER: .....August.
22 August/September.
23
24
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No kidding? In that time
25 of year?
26
27
                  MS. DETWILER: Yeah. There's actually
28 quite a bit of information in that packet, some.....
29
30
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
31
32
                  MS. DETWILER: .....pretty good concise
33 information on their life history.
34
35
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Good enough.
36 Well, thank you.
37
38
                   MR. ABRAHAM: We see them in Togiak Bay,
39 the mouth, you know, in small groups.....
40
41
                  MS. DETWILER: Uh-huh.
42
43
                  MR. ABRAHAM: .....you know, when they're
44 feeding in the inlets over there.
45
46
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, good.
                                                  Thank you.
47 We appreciate you taking time to give us.....
48
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN: Well, there's sure a lot
50 of them coming back this year. I mean,....
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00127
                   MS. DETWILER: Yeah.
2
3
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN: .....sea ducks.
4
5
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Really? Yeah.
7
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
                                    The bay's full again.
8
9
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You know, Sue, it's
10 interesting. Like a few years ago we had all kinds of
11 these seabirds that died, and, I mean, they'd be floating
12 on the water for miles and miles, literally up and down the
13 whole Peninsula. And I don't know if anyone ever
14 determined why all of a sudden, you know, during the middle
15 of the fishing season all these birds were floating around
16 upside down. They were dead.
17
18
                   MS. DETWILER: When was this?
                                                   I'm sorry.
19
20
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, ten years ago. A
21 little kind of.....
22
23
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
                                     Jim Ferrell time, what
24 time is that?
25
26
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Yeah.
27
28
                                    Must be close to.....
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
29
30
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.
31
32
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
                                    .....15, maybe longer.
33 You're getting old.
34
35
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay. I'm so young and
36 just time goes by so fast. Well, thank you.
37
38
                   MS. DETWILER:
                                  Thank you.
39
40
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Appreciate it a lot.
41 Okay.
42
43
           (Whispered conversation)
44
45
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're on a roll on down
46 here, so is there the Bureau of Land Management here today?
47 Jeff Denton? Oh, you're going to do that, be Jeff Denton
48 today there, Dave?
49
50
                   MR. FISHER: This will be real short, Mr.
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00128
  Chairman. Jeff Denton asked me to mention a few things
  that the Bureau has done, or they will be doing. They've
  entered into a contract with the Air Force to map the
  Naknek military use area, and this area extends basically
  from Lake Clark up to the Wood-Titchik Lakes. And this is
  for an EIS regarding military low flight impacts, and
  they're just going to basically cover map this area. And
7
  according to Jeff, they completed the field -- some of
  their field work this summer, so it looks -- sounds like
10 it's going to be an on-going project.
11
12
           The other thing they're going to do this November
13 if the snowfall is sufficient, they're going to do some
14 moose surveys, stratification surveys to determine moose
15 habitat areas and so on.
16
17
           That's basically what he would have said if he
18 would have come.
19
20
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     That's good. I'm glad to
21 hear that. Yeah.
                      That's good.
22
23
                   MR. FISHER:
                                That's all I have.
24
25
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.
                                              Any questions,
26 Council members?
                    Thanks. Appreciate it.
                                              Oh.
27
28
                                Thanks.
                   MR. FISHER:
                                         Wait a minute, okay.
29 Yes, sir?
30
                                Two questions I guess. First
31
                   MR. HEYANO:
32 of all, what does he mean by mapping?
33
34
                   MR. FISHER: Land cover mapping of
35 vegetation types, water types, so on.
36
37
                   MR. HEYANO: And then where is he going to
38 be conducting these moose surveys?
39
40
                   MR. FISHER:
                                Basically I think on BLM lands
41 in Unit 9.
42
43
                                The yellow up there?
                   MR. HEYANO:
44
45
                   MR. FISHER:
                                Uh-huh.
                                         (Affirmative)
46
47
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pretty good moose habitat
48 in there. Yeah.
49
50
                   MR. FISHER: I think he -- at one of the
```

00129 meetings I think mentioned the fact that they hadn't done a lot of -- I don't remember what proposal we were dealing with, but he said that he didn't have a lot of moose data on those BLM lands, and he didn't have a lot of information 5 on habitat types either, so maybe we'll get something from 6 this. Thank you. 7 8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Thank you. Okay. 9 All right. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 10 11 MR. SAMUELSEN: Not here. 12 13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, we're here, but 14 do you want to go first, or (indiscernible - away from 15 microphone). Jim Wellington isn't here by the way. 16 17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who isn't? 18 19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Jim Wellington who is 20 listed on your agenda? 21 22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes. Uh-huh. 23 24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I think he was 25 planning to come over tomorrow, but we could probably call 26 him and tell him don't bother. 27 28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. 29 30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible - away 31 from microphone) 32 33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Ted? 34 35 MR. KRIEG: Yeah. Ted Krieg, Subsistence 36 Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm just 37 going to go over two things, and I won't take a lot of 38 time. Molly Chythlook who works in our Department out in 39 -- out of Dillingham was also here, but she had to leave 40 earlier also. So I'm going to cover for her, too, but..... 41 42 I guess the first thing, and we've talked about 43 this before, but the baseline subsistence harvest study for 44 Togiak, Twin Hills, and Manokotak, it's -- we're still 45 working on that project, and that project is -- it's a 46 cooperative agreement with Fish and Wildlife Service and 47 Subsistence Division, and BBNA have been working together 48 on that. We're getting close to being done with the field 49 work. We ended up splitting it into two -- it was -- there 50 were two parts of it anyway, the paperwork recording

subsistence harvest data, for the year April 1 of '99
through March 31st of 2000, and then there was mapping -- a
mapping component where we mapped the harvest areas for
caribou, moose, brown bear, and black bear for the survey
year, and then for the last 20 years, areas where people
from those communities had hunted. Let's see, we were
trying to do a 50 percent sample for Togiak, and a 100
percent sample for both Twin Hills and Manokotak. Togiak
and Twin Hills have never had a baseline study done. This
is the first time that we've had -- you know, that we've
worked together with them to do this. And Manokotak had
one done in the mid 80s, so this will be some -- you know,
we hope will be some valuable information. The report, the
technical paper will be out sometime next year.

15 16

Then the next thing is Kvichak River system, and 17 this -- well, this is a follow up to the subsistence salmon 18 permit system, but just to evaluate what happened there 19 this year. We're planning some trips to the villages, 20 Levelock, Kakhonak, Pedro Bay, Iliamna, Newhalen, 21 Nondalton, and possibly even Port Alsworth. Igiugig also. 22 And the idea there is to try to talk to a couple of the key 23 informants, key harvesters and, you know, just see what the 24 low escapement this year, what kind of impact it had on 25 their subsistence fishing.

26 27

That's all I've got, if there are any questions?

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any questions from 30 Council members? Ted, when you go to Iliamna, Newhalen and 31 Nondalton, and if you -- I hope you make it to Port 32 Alsworth, too, because I know some of those people up there 33 who got a little bit of fish from the bay, usually get 34 their subsistence fish at Port Alsworth, didn't even bother 35 with it this year because it was just so scarce, but I 36 thought it was rather interesting when we had the fall fish 37 conference here that a lot of people from Iliamna had to 38 come from Iliamna down over to Newhalen, you know, and 39 crowd in there with all the other subsistence users. 40 thinking of Burt and different ones who had to come down, 41 because there just wasn't enough fish going along the 42 shoreline. And so it would be interesting to ask them, you 43 know, if that lack of escapement -- I think they got their 44 subsistence fish, but they -- you've got to move on your 45 neighbor, and all of a sudden you're getting to be not --46 you know, it's getting crowded, and having to compete for 47 that fish, because that's a river system that had some 48 going up, and there were places in Lake Iliamna where 49 Kakhonak had some fish, they went by, you know, below Six-50 Mile there, they got fish there, and a little bit in the --

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00131
   up in the....
3
                   MR. BALLUTA: Uh-huh. A little bit of
4
  fish.
5
6
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....Tusitna.
7
8
                    MR. BALUTTA: But most of it is subsistence
   users had to travel down river to get their fish.
10 waited for the fish, but the fish was a little late, and
11 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....
12
13
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Iliamna River didn't get
14 anything.....
15
16
                   MR. BALLUTA: Yeah.
17
18
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....at all I don't
19 think.
20
21
                   MR. BALUTTA: Some of them didn't get any
22 at all.
23
24
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Knutson Bay got some.
25
26
                   MR. BALLUTA: Yeah.
27
28
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Kakhonak. There were
29 some here and there, you know. I know that. In a very
30 short period of time, Upper and Lower Talarik, and I
31 watched both of them, because I was almost on a charter
32 every day, through those rivers, they were there for a
33 while red and then they were gone. The bears were there
34 for a while and they were gone. So it's had quite an
35 impact on the whole system, so.....
36
37
                   MR. KRIEG:
                                Okay.
38
39
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                       Thank you very much.
40
41
                   MR. KRIEG: Thank you.
42
43
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Appreciate it. Okay.
44 Bristol Bay Native Association.
45
46
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: No, you've got sport fish.
47
48
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, sport fish. Sorry.
49 Sorry about that. Oh, my goodness. Yeah.
50
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MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Dan Dunaway, Fish and Game, Sport Fish, and I'll try to keep this pretty brief. Figured I'd give you a little bit of information of what's going on with sport fish.

5 6 7

One of the first things, in July -- as of July, we established a new area sports fish manager position in Bethel, which is going to relieve me of the Kuskokwim duties that I've had for a couple years, and let me focus 10 on Bristol Bay, so we've got a guy named Bob Lafferty in 11 Bethel now that will deal with everything from Cape 12 Newenham north. And I'm not sure his full area. I think 13 some of the Lower Yukon as well as Kuskokwim. 14 probably really good timing considering the headaches they 15 had up there this year.

16 17

I was hoping to have a season summary to hand out 18 to you today, but it's not ready yet. We're putting a 19 little more time and scrutiny into it, because it will 20 probably turn into our Board report. When it is complete in 21 the next hopefully two, three weeks we'll be trying to get 22 that out. So I'll try to touch on a few points here just 23 verbally.

24 25

One of the other things, too, to be aware of, is 26 that we had a major review of our statewide harvest mail 27 survey estimators, and there have been some changes and 28 they've -- we've gone back from revising our estimates of 29 effort, catch and harvest from '96 through '98. And so if 30 you see tables that come out here this fall, and we're just 31 starting to get them updated with different numbers, we're 32 not playing any games. We're trying to provide a better 33 estimate. There have been -- some of the estimates went 34 up, a lot of them went down, an it's kind of random. 35 not a consistent thing, and it has to do with corrections 36 for bias, and beyond that I don't understand it too well. 37 But I just want to get that out -- up front. If you have 38 an old table, and we see a new one here, and there's 39 different numbers, we're trying to do a better job at it. 40 And that's also why some of these -- we're going to have to 41 have -- update a lot of tables for the Board and all.

42 43

Going through some of the major fisheries for this 44 season, Togiak king salmon, we had a pretty good escapement 45 in the end. 11,000, and I believe our escapement goal is 46 ten. So I'm really pleased with that.

47

48 Nushagak kings didn't do as well as we forecast. 49 think we were estimating 57,000 kings past the sonar 50 counter. There was no commercial fishery. The sport

fishery wasn't restricted, but it was just knocking on the edge of the door there. 55,000's the trigger, and we consistently projected just above that level, and that's why following their plan we didn't have any restrictions, but it -- it was kind of nerve wracking. I sure wish we could get back to where we're -- into our 75,000 fish inriver goal and everybody was meeting their goals comfortably.

8

7

5

10 The big news is the Kvichak sockeye salmon run as 11 you well know wasn't very good, and July 12 I announced I 12 announced a closure in the sport fishery. Concerned that 13 we would be interfering with the subsistence priority and 14 the biological escapement levels in the area. And now 15 that's touched off a bit of a controversy between the 16 economic trade-offs that happened. Folks that also are 17 depending on the recreational fishery for their income. 18 We're going to be working with the advisory committees in 19 that area especially getting advice on what an appropriate 20 trade off is. This is where we're really going to need 21 help and getting a lot of participation from this area in 22 to the Board telling them what's acceptable, subsistence 23 opportunity and recreational opportunity. We'd like to 24 have kind of an in-river management plan that will give me 25 a directive so I'm not making arbitrary allocative 26 decisions that I'm not supposed to do, and we want to do 27 this more as just an in-river thing, and not really involve 28 the commercial fishery. I don't want it -- I think we can 29 do that in-river. So we're hoping to gather more 30 information for this next November Board workshop where 31 they'll be evaluating the information that we collect, and 32 I think they're forwarding a proposal, or considering 33 forwarding a proposal, a Board generated proposal to 34 develop this plan.

35

Moving on down around the coast, some of our other 37 major king salmon fisheries, Alagnak and Naknek that the 38 escapement levels weren't particularly good. They were 39 below average. It's a real surprise in the Alagnak where 40 we had the commercial fishery for sockeyes closed for so 41 long. Usually that means a really good king escapement, so 42 it tells me our -- well, combined with the poor Nushagak 43 return, that something's going on, and we didn't get as 44 good king run as we'd like.

45

Moving on to coho salmon, much of the bay did 47 pretty well. We did very well in the Nushagak River, and 48 met -- well above the in-river escapement goal, and there 49 was no need to restrict any fishery.

50

The Ugashik River coho run was a source of concern, but it was very unclear. I was getting so many conflicting reports, but I spent about three weeks kind of steadily collecting information, and if I'd had some sort of consistent indicator of really bad runs, I might have 5 restricted the sport fishery. As it is, I didn't. Just 7 yesterday Keith Wyland flew aerial surveys of the river for 8 coho escapement, and I haven't -- I didn't even know he 9 went until this morning, and I haven't found out what he 10 counted, so I'm going to be eager to do that. But I help 11 pay for those surveys so that we could all know our best 12 estimate on those. I'm hoping they ended up okay, but 13 those are really only index flights. They're not as 14 rigorous I don't think as some of our other sockeye They haven't been done as long or as 15 surveys. 16 consistently, but we will have some numbers to look at.

17

Probably most of you know the Board of Fish meeting's scheduled in January, and they're beginning to get their schedule together of what proposals they'll see 21 when. I saw a draft e-mail this morning. I was hoping -- 22 Joe was going to be here to speak to board process, but all I'll say is that we're going to be trying to advertise as 24 best we can, encourage participation when those 25 opportunities come. And again the Kvichak in-river plan 26 will be a big focus of my activity as well as the other 27 proposals.

28 29

Touching on projects for sport fish, this last summer our biggest one was a joint creel survey on the Nushagak River. It was the Department of Fish and Game and Chogyung (ph) limited did kind of an experimental handshake arrangement that I think worked pretty darn well, but we don't -- we're just now editing the data. We did get counts all the way from Black Point to Stuyahok River on a pretty consistent basis. Counts of anglers, and it will be real interesting to see what we get there.

38 39

We had a small scale creel survey on the McLung 40 River, and I think partly because there was no restrictions 41 on the Nushagak River, and because the Togiak River did 42 pretty well, we hardly had anything happening. Very little 43 sport fishing activity. I think probably a little less 44 than we've had in some other years.

45

We also had a Naknek River rainbow trout abundance 47 project. This is the second year of that. We've got a 48 grad student on that. I'm getting pretty excited, we may 49 actually be able to estimate the abundance of spawning 50 rainbow trout in the spring there. We'll be doing radio

telemetry on that stock starting next summer, and then that's supposed to be complete a year from this spring, so a year from -- May of 2002 I think we should be done.

4 5

6

7

We also did Lower Talarik rainbow trout creel survey, and that's more just monitoring that fishery and keeping me somewhat involved with Iliamna area fisheries. And it seemed to have come off normally.

8 9 10

We also did participate in the design, and we were 11 hoping to participate a little bit in the actually field 12 activity for the Alagnak angler index program, but 13 communications got kind of difficult, and we could never 14 coordinate to get my staff on the ground with the folks 15 doing the index. The Park Service is going to provide me 16 with a rough summary of the data here as soon as they can 17 put it together. And I hope to use that in designing an 18 Alagnak creel survey next year that will be a lot more 19 rigorous. And I've also submitted a request to the Federal 20 Subsistence projects for funding to do a much larger survey 21 than I normally would do just with state funds. And we're 22 beginning to discuss possible designs and system for 23 conducting that. And that's kind of our normal rotation, 24 that we rotate among our major salmon fisheries, and the 25 Alagnak's kind of on deck, so that's going to be our 26 centerpiece of activity next year, as well as on-going 27 Naknek rainbow trout, and other priorities as crop up at 28 the Board of Fish meetings. We'll probably make our final 29 decision in February.

30 31

And as I've mentioned, we've provided -- supplied 32 some preproposals to the federal subsistence system for 33 possible funding and probably highest on the list is this 34 Alagnak salmon creel survey.

35 36

Another one is the Bristol Bay rainbow trout protocol, where we would try to evaluate our data throughout the whole Bristol Bay area, come up with a system of evaluating the data we have and establishing our 40 historic benchmark for each system. I know a lot of these 41 federal agencies that are doing plans have started asking 42 us to be more definite with our rainbow trout management 43 plan that just says manage for historical size and age 44 composition. And I know Mark Lisac is saying, well, what 45 is it? So we're going to hopefully -- we'll be able to say 46 what it is, or at least have a logical system for 47 establishing one, and then seeking data for those systems 48 that we don't have any data on yet.

49 50

There's other ones that have been submitted.

Kvichak and Newhalen River sockeye creel surveys are possibilities. Newhalen and Tazimina River rainbow trout abundance assessment is one. Alagnak River rainbow trout abundance was one we -- and I think I put in another one. I can't remember what it was.

5 6 7

And that's the extent of my report. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer it.

8

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, any 11 comments that -- any questions you might have? 12 quiet bunch. Hey, don't leave yet now. There are about 13 three things we want to talk to you about here. One was 14 basically other than maybe not getting quite as many kings 15 as you wanted in some districts, you did fairly well other 16 than the Kvichak, you know. I know that the sports 17 fishermen in the Naknek are really, really happy and 18 impressed with what's happened with the rainbow population 19 in that river, and I've talked with several of the guides, 20 and they really had a good year. Ugashik I think got 21 escapement anyway. Egegik got plenty of escapement. 22 Naknek probably had an overabundant escapement of reds. 23 River systems over there on the west side got fish. and 24 the Alagnak, the Branch got its million fish. And I was up 25 on the Naknek the other day, and, oh, maybe three weeks 26 ago, and those reds were spawned out, but, I mean, they 27 were just thick. They were just biting your hook almost 28 every other time.

29 30

And so I guess the thing I wanted to ask you was the nasty little one on the closure of the sports thing. Probably get thrown out of the meeting -- building immediately upon saying this, but granted subsistence was a tough one, was it five fish a day they could take on the Kvichak?

36 37

MR. DUNAWAY: For sport fish, yeah, that's

39 40

38 the....

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

41 42

MR. DUNAWAY:bag limit.

43

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Would it have 45 helped to at least give them one fish a day and still have 46 been able to get by without getting critically shot and 47 still give them a little bit of business? That -- I've 48 talked with people in the Igiugig and then I've talked with 49 some of the lodge owners. I fly for kings, and I meet a 50 lot of people and talk with a lot of people, and I know

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00137
   that they were pretty devastated in a pretty big way as, of
   course, we all were, but how do you make a decision like
3
   that anyway?
4
5
                   MR. DUNAWAY:
                                  Well, I was.....
6
7
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                      That's the way I'd have
8
   done it anyway.
9
10
                   MR. DUNAWAY:
                                  I was at that point right up
11 until two days before we decided to actually close, and
12 I've been hit with some pretty hard criticism in other
13 fisheries where my actions were viewed as just a token, but
14 not really substantial. I also -- I had -- did a lot of
15 learning in this process. I had thought that more of the
16 sport fishery had progressed at the date that we'd chosen.
17 I've learned I was wrong, that the fishery really goes on a
18 lot longer. So I was concerned that most of the take had
19 probably already occurred, and I felt I would need to
20 really slam it down to have any biological effect.
21 beginning to hear a lot more complaints from the
22 subsistence folks. When I first -- when Slim and Jeff
23 Regnart called me that, hey, things are looking really bad,
24 I started calling everybody I could think of in the lake
25 area to find out what's going on with subsistence. I tried
26 calling Andrew, and I think I talked to his wife. I talked
27 to Bill Trefon, a number of folks around the lake trying to
28 get a picture. And I was still leaning towards just a one
29 or two fish bag limit. But when I say their in-river test
30 fishery just not producing any fish, it didn't seem like
31 any were coming, and it just continued, and I guess from my
32 days of being on the tower back in '74 and '75 myself, I
33 looked at those numbers and it just -- it really shocked
34 me. And we discussed it with -- well, I understand that my
35 supervisor -- I talked with my two immediate supervisors,
36 Doug McBride and Craig Witmore, and they carried it on to
37 our director, Kelly Hepler at the time. And I think it was 38 discussed all the way to the Governor or something, and it
39 just seemed at the time, I was becoming very concerned
40 whether we were going to really see much fish at all.
41 felt it was -- and I also heard growing concerns from the
42 subsistence fishermen. When I first called, they weren't
43 worried, but I called back three days later, and people had
44 had a chance to put their net and were getting -- Kakhonak
45 was getting concerned. And so I said, well, I'd better be
46 safe and be biologically sound and again observe that spor
47 -- the subsistence priority, and so we went to a closure.
48
49
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                      Robin?
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MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. Dan, was there other species available to these sport fishermen besides sockeye?

3

5

6

7

MR. DUNAWAY: Well, that's where it get In the Kvichak there's not a whole lot, real hard. particularly further up in the like Newhalen area. Now, I also closed the Alagnak, because at the time there weren't 8 any fish to speak of in the Alagnak. Right after I 9 announced the closure, I started hearing there's fish 10 coming, and in fact in the end the Alagnak did very well, 11 like you say,.....

12 13

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY:450 some thousand, and 16 that wasn't necessary.

17 18

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How many?

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: I believe Slim has estimated 21 450,000 escapement. And the thing there is at least in the 22 Alagnak they do have kings and chums and humpies as 23 alternative species, as well as rainbow and grayling.

24 25

MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

26 27

MR. DUNAWAY: The Kvichak's a lot tougher They do -- a lot of the people only come for the 28 on folks. 29 reds. It's somewhat more of a meat fishery, especially at 30 Iliamna and right there at the Newhalen River at Iliamna 31 and also at Igiugig, and, you know, I've spent a lot of 32 time going what should I have really done, and this is why 33 we're looking for direction from the folks up there. A lot 34 of them are subsistence. They're subsistence users, but 35 they're economy depends heavily on recreation, so who 36 better to give the Board.....

37 38

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, it's two-edged 39 sword really in a lot of ways. Robin, anything else?

40 41

MR. SAMUELSEN: No, I just think, you know, 42 Dan did the right thing. Hearing the -- a number of -- at 43 this table and throughout the fall even a number of people 44 up there have a hard time meeting their subsistence needs, 45 and a lot of them didn't meet their full subsistence needs, 46 got to parcel their fish, and with the sport fishing 47 effort, and recognizing that the down stream effects, you 48 know, there was no commercial fishery, we had drifters --49 local drifters subsistence users in the fall, but during

50 the summer they're commercial fishermen, Naknek fishermen

00139 that historically fish the Kvichak, Naknek, and then setnetters that sit on the Kvichak side, no place to go, so I think everybody needs to share in the burden of conservation, and surely the resource comes first, and 5 after the resource, it's subsistence users. 6 7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's a tough one. 8 Hopefully when you.... 9 10 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. 11 12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:come back next year, 13 you'll have better news. 14 15 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I think -- I'll feel a 16 lot better if we get, you know, something on the books that 17 the public up there gives us, this is the appropriate 18 trade-off, and there's a number of things could be done, 19 and we'd want to explore all options and -- for that. 20 21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Let me share -- excuse 22 me, go ahead. 23 24 MR. SAMUELSEN: I've just got another 25 question about that, you know, I think you've got to look 26 at the fishery in its whole context. I mean, the people up 27 on the lake whether a subsistence or a sport user are not 28 separated from the stock that enters the river system, the 29 fish that enter the river system. So I Hope the board has 30 the foresight to look at along the fish's migratory route, 31 what's happening in Kvichak Bay, and what's happening in 32 Kvichak River, as well as in Lake Iliamna, because that 33 would be a whole different avenue we're turning, and, you 34 know, elevating sport fish above commercial. We'll all be 35 there in January. 36 And by the way, Mr. Chairman, we have a workshop 37 38 January 22nd, but we also have a Board of Fish meeting that 39 starts January 9th, and runs to February 2nd, and Bristol 40 Bay, AYK and Area M are going to be in a mega meeting. 41 42 I know where we're going CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 43 to be at. We know the board process. We're going to be Well, if there's no other comment? Yeah, 44 there. Yeah. 45 Pete? 46 47 What's the health of MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. 48 like dolly varden, rainbow, and the other species in that 49 area? I mean, what -- what's the population look like? I

50 mean, to -- like, you know, like two, three years ago until

00140 today. 2 3 MR. DUNAWAY: In the Kvichak? 4 5 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

7

MR. DUNAWAY: Really don't know. haven't -- we had a 12-year rainbow trout abundance project going on in -- at Igiugig, and if we'd have continued it, 10 it might have been very interesting to see, but there's a 11 time where you've got to end a project, put your money in 12 other concerns, other places, and I've discussed this Dan It's kind of regrettable that we didn't do it a 13 Salmon. 14 few more years. Talking to Gary Nielson in Kakhonak and 15 Dan Salmon in Igiugig and a few others, especially last 16 year, not this season, but 1999 season, that rainbow trout 17 behaved way differently. They didn't go into the sport 18 fishing hotspots in late August through September like they 19 normally do. They -- in Talarik Creek they finally showed 20 up in October. Gary told me they never really did in Copper River, I don't really know. I got the 21 Kakhonak. 22 impression that they did show, but very late.

23 24

I haven't looked at the data we collected on Lower 25 Talarik Creek this year. We could go back and look at 26 weight -- a comparison of weight. In the past we've done 27 that, compared the -- what we call the condition factor, 28 measure of fatness or -- of rainbow trout. It's a 29 length/weight relationship, compared it to the number of 30 sockeye salmon counted at the Igiugig tower, and they 31 seemed to track, that when you have a large number of 32 sockeye in the system, the rainbow trout in Talarik Creek 33 seem to be fatter. But that's a real loose analysis. 34 hasn't been done rigorously. And like this year it seemed 35 like we still had a fairly abundant number of fish in 36 Talarik Creek.

37 38

In fact I've got to be careful here, but my 39 conversations with Slim seemed to indicate that a lot of 40 the stream tributaries around Lake Iliamna did okay with 41 the number of sockeyes, but where their fish were missing 42 was the lake beaches, the big beach spawners. I think also 43 some rivers didn't do particularly well. Only 180,000 in 44 the whole Newhalen system. But as -- that's the best 45 measure I have. I don't know about dolly varden or 46 grayling as far as abundance or condition factor.

47

48 MR. ABRAHAM: The reason why I ask this 49 question is because now if the fish are missing or do not 50 go up that river, or are late, by studying these other

00141
1 species,
2 what's go
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4 or temper
5 would be
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8 then we m
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11 is really
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13 week revi
14 salmon pr
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18 back. Bu
19 numbers d
20 species s
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species, you know, you might find something, you know, what's going on with the -- maybe the lake, the water. I mean, it's got to do with the volcano eruptions sometimes, or temperature of the water. You know, those can -- those would be the factors. I mean, we're -- you know, we don't know, and I -- you and I -- I don't know, but by looking that route or that direction, something might click, and then we might find out.

MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I know the Department 11 is really scrutinizing every bit of data we have. There's 12 going to be a major meeting here I think the end of next 13 week reviewing the whole biological assessment for sockeye 14 salmon program. The Department uses smolt counts and 15 escapement surveys and such. But data I know about to 16 date, it seems to indicate that there are a large -- a good 17 number of smolt left the system. They just never came 18 back. But, yeah, what I would expect if the sockeye 19 numbers declines and stay down is we'd see all the other 20 species start declining, too. But I heard of that problem 21 yet, and what we're doing at Talarik Creek, I don't think 22 would -- it wouldn't jump out at us right away.

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, did you have a 25 comment here or not?

MR. HEYANO: I had a question....

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

MR. HEYANO:for Dan.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

MR. HEYANO: What's the status of the trout population on Iliamna River?

38 MR. DUNAWAY: I don't know. We haven't 39 done any work there since we did it, what, '96 and '97, and 40 then that winter the Board of Fish adopted a catch and 41 release regulation for I think both species on that river, 42 and we haven't gone back. Typically it takes probably 43 five, six years before you can even measure a change, but 44 we do have a lot more restrictive regulations on that 45 river, and would expect that that would be about the best 46 we can do I think is cut down the effort there. I know in 47 the past when I've talked to Jeff Regnart, that was 48 probably one of the most consistent sockeye spawning 49 streams. He said he saw less variability there than a 50 number of other streams in the area. Now, I don't know --

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00142
   I haven't seen any numbers for the aerial surveys this year
   to know if it's still in the same range that it has been or
   not. So is that what you're getting at partly, is could
   that be an indicator, or.....
5
6
                    MR. HEYANO: No.
                                       No, I -- just it.....
7
8
                    MR. DUNAWAY: .....just strictly a.....
9
10
                    MR. HEYANO: .....was brought to our
11 attention, you know, here was a river system that had a
12 very healthy population of trout, and suddenly it's
13 crashed, and you had to go to a catch and release fishery,
14 and I was just -- it seems to me when you have a system
15 like that, you'd focus some attention on it to kind of 16 monitor or baby it along, and so you don't know if it's
17 recovering or if it's still down at the low population
18 levels or....
19
20
                    MR. DUNAWAY: No. We didn't see that we
21 could do a whole lot more after '96 and '97.
                                                   We -- our
22 catch and release, '98 was the first, let's see, '98, '99, 23 I guess 2000 here, three seasons of fishing. My experience
24 here on Naknek River when we were concerned about the
25 rainbow trout, it took five years before we even saw a hint
26 of a change in the rainbow trout there. And it took
27 another three or four before it was more readily apparent,
28 and we got the comments like Chairman O'Hara brought up
29 earlier that fishing's good now. So I -- you know, we
30 might want to look at it again in a couple of years. We
31 even funded a subsistence survey there, because there were
32 some questions whether subsistence take might have had
33 something to do with it, and it -- what I recall, Ted might
34 correct me if I'm wrong, but it sounded like people said,
35 we don't go there any more, there's not enough fish to
36 bother with, so I think it's pretty well protected right
37 now.
38
39
                                       Okay. Well, thank you
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
40 very much, we -- oh.
41
42
                    MR. BALUTTA: Catch and release of salmon,
43 I notice -- a lot of people have noticed right in the
44 Village of Newhalen, they're fishing up above, and the
45 lodges said they're just catching and release, and we see a
46 lot of dead salmon floating down the river, and they say
47 it's catch and release. I don't know whether that catch
48 and release have killed the salmon.
49
50
                    MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'm sure -- well, I --
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yes, some fish do die from catch and release, and the sloppier people are about releasing or handling the fish, the more likely they are to die. Something I'd really like to do over there would be to, if we could get permission 5 from the Alaska Peninsula Corporation, to develop that easement trail down to the Newhalen River, get some posters up and such about how to properly catch and release fish. I know this is a growing concern, and we're trying to look 9 into mortality estimates for sockeye on catch and release 10 fishing, but I don't -- usually it's cohos and kings are 11 what all the money's been spent on, and I don't know if 12 that compares any to sockeye. So I really don't have any 13 data to go on.

14 15

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. A short report 16 that turned into a long one. And we -- no, we thank you 17 for coming and giving us the information, because this was 18 very important, these species other than what we, you know, 19 pound by pound and ton by ton is important too, and so we 20 thank you for taking the time, and we have your proposals 21 here....

22 23

MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

24 25

CHAIRMAN O'HARA:that came in.

26 thanks a lot.

27 28

MR. DUNAWAY: All right. Thanks for the 29 opportunity. Call me if you have more questions.

30 31

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any more fish out 32 there? BBNA?

33

34 MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, Ralph 35 Anderson, BBNA Natural Resource. Before the dinner break, 36 we heard Ron Squibb give us the sad news about the Northern 37 Alaska Peninsula caribou herd. Well, this summer I had the 38 unpleasant task of delivering 40 federal permits to the 39 Peninsula villages. Our process is outlined in the memo 40 that I wrote you. I -- just for the sake of time, I 41 wouldn't go through and read the whole thing. Basically 42 the project began on July 18th with a phone call that I 43 received from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Pat 44 McClenahan, Cliff, Darryl Lons and Dave Fisher. 45 discussed as I recall four topics that seemed to stick with

46 me. First was the need to fast track this project due to 47 the time that we need to execute a cooperative agreement,

48 and travel to all the villages and deliver all the -- to

49 deliver the permits. We also discussed the need to contact

50 the village councils to arrange the meetings.

Dave Fisher raised a concern about locating 28 federal permits from last year that disappeared. Nobody seems to know where they are. They haven't been reported on, for any post-hunt reports haven't been submitted.

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8

And as I recall, Darryl Lons also raised a concern that one of the villages on the Peninsula hadn't distributed any of the permits that they were allocated last year.

9 10 11

On July 28th I -- by July 28th I had contacted all 12 the villages, made arrangements, travel arrangements. 13 Cliff Edenshaw and I were scheduled to travel to all the 14 villages. And also by July 28th, I had contacted Ted Krieg 15 who had coordinated the project for BBNA last year to try 16 to figure out how they -- how the numbers came about, and 17 how they distributed the 60 last year. And based on the 18 information that I received from him, and what he explained 19 to me was that as he recalls, that the initial numbers were 20 based on the percentage of Tier II permits that were issued 21 to each of the villages, so I used that same formula for 22 the 40 permits this year. And the formula and, you know, 23 my -- the attachments to the memo describe the number of 24 permits, the percentages, and where they went. The second 25 attachment lists the permits by number by village, so that 26 we know which villages got which permit numbers. And I'm 27 not sure whether or not those kinds of records were kept 28 for last year, so some of the permits are -- you know, 29 aren't accounted for.

30 31

Basically Cliff and I flew from one end of the Peninsula to the other in two days. We took a seine boat around from the Lagoon to the Bay, kind of choppy weather, in order to keep on schedule with our meeting that evening with Ivanof and Chignik Bay. It wasn't too pleasant delivering one permit to Ivanof. It wasn't very pleasant delivering three permits to -- or two permits to Chignik Bay, either. The last of the permits were delivered on August 7th.

40

And as I -- when I delivered the permits at each 42 village, I want to explain the process just to make sure 43 that, you know, we all -- you know, that you all understand 44 that we just didn't go -- I just didn't go and drop the 45 permits off and say, here, have at it. What I did was I 46 explained the permit, the designated hunter forms that are 47 -- you know, that were part of it. I gave copies of the 48 spreadsheets that are attached to these, to the memo here 49 to the village councils, or to the village administrators, 50 and explained the process that I used. And I also asked

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49 50

them if there's any way that you can make it better. mean, am I going about this wrong here, or if they could think of a better way to distribute the permits, and they really couldn't think of any other way, and in fact said that they thought that the system that I had come up with was pretty good.

I also explained that they needed to advertise the availability of the permits for those people who live in 10 the village that don't -- that hadn't received a State Tier 11 II permit. I also suggested a random drawing, and to 12 forward me copies of the applications once they were 13 completed.

The last of the permits like I said were delivered 16 on August 7, three days before the opening of the season. 17 I thought that was -- I set -- I wanted to get the permits 18 out before the season opened.

And Pat McClenahan and Cliff and I returned back 21 here to Naknek as you remember, Dan, on September 6th to 22 answer some questions regarding the ANILCA provisions.

24 There are a couple of recommendations that I have 25 here that are on the last -- on page three of the memo. 26 One is that -- or the first is that it's probably likely, 27 more than likely that the herd is still going to be in Tier 28 II status next year. I really think that some planning 29 needs to take place. I mean, I just really didn't think 30 very much of getting a phone call the end of July with the 31 season opening in the first part of August, saying, hey, 32 you know, we need some help here. We knew a year ago that 33 the herd was in trouble, being in Tier II status then. 34 had plenty of time I think to plan for this, but nothing 35 really happened until the end of July as far as the 40 36 permits go. We were in contact with the State Subsistence 37 Division, and helping them coordinate, validating the 38 applications from the villages for state Tier II permits 39 back in May. I mean, if it's one thing, it's probably more 40 criticism -- I mean, more frustration on my part that I'm 41 voicing than anything else. You know, we -- if more 42 planning was involved, you know, we could have had, you 43 know, better preparations, the village councils would have 44 been more aware of when the activity would be taking place. 45 The village coun -- you know, we could have done -- we 46 could have done a better job in briefing them on some of 47 the regulations and procedures that we -- you know, that 48 are required.

The second recommendation that I have is that a

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00146
   conference -- another conference should be organized.
   1998, March of '98, the first conference was held before
  the herd went into Tier II status, and another conference
  -- I mean that was with all the villages on the Peninsula.
5 And another conference hasn't been held since then. And I
  think that now that the herd -- and we've been through two
  Tier II seasons now. We saw the graph, the chart, you
8 know, the steady decline of the herd. I think it's
  important that the subsistence users be involved in getting
10 this information, that they know that they're able to meet
11 with the biologist and get the kind of information that
12 you're getting, that you're being presented here.
13 it's -- you know, I think it's also important that they be
14 involved in developing strategies to address the concerns
15 that have arisen during the past two years. I don't know,
16 and to -- and if need be, you know, come up with a permit
17 distribution system that works, if the one that I came up
18 with doesn't, that people aren't happy that -- you know, I
19 mean, just addressing a whole bunch of issues that, you
20 know, at the conference, as well as getting, you know,
21 reports that you've been hearing on the status of the herd.
22 I think it's really important for them to hear this
23 information.
24
25
           That's all I have.
26
27
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Questions, Council
28 members?
29
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
30
                                     What are you going to
31 hear four, five more years of Tier II?
32
33
                   MR. ANDERSON:
                                  Pardon?
34
35
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN: Tier II's going to be
36 here for four or five years. The last time they had
37 decline on caribou, back in the 30s, they released a bunch
38 of reindeer between Pilot Point and Port Heiden. They all
39 took off, mixed in with -- then the population grew.
40
41
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good idea.
42
43
                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE:
                                        Yeah.
44
45
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN: Lots of caribou --
46 reindeer they released.
47
48
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     From 60 to 40 permits?
49
50
                   MR. ANDERSON: It dropped from 60 to 40.
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00147
1
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that's because why?
2
3
                   MR. ANDERSON: Because the herd declined.
4
5
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, I see. And why
6
  weren't they issued earlier? You -- it had.....
7
8
                   MR. ANDERSON: I have no idea. I mean, I
9
  was just called on July 18th by the Fish and Wildlife
10 Service asking for help. So I.....
11
12
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So who was supposed to
13 have sent them out?
14
15
                   MR. ANDERSON:
                                 Pardon me?
16
17
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who was supposed to have
18 sent them out?
19
20
                   MR. ANDERSON: It's their hunt.
                                                    I mean,
21 they....
22
23
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But who are they?
24
25
                   MR. ANDERSON: It's the Fish and Wildlife
26 Service, Pat McClenahan and -- called and -- I mean, the
27 first part of my memo, I describe that telephone call. The
28 way I see -- you know, I offered my assistance in
29 distributing the permits.
30
31
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I thought BBNA -- I don't
32 know where I got the idea that BBNA did that, but it's not
33 BBNA's job though?
34
35
                   MR. ANDERSON: It's a federal hunt.
36
37
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
38
39
                   MR. ANDERSON: It a federal permit hunt.
40
41
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: On the 40 permits.
42
43
                   MR. ANDERSON: Yeah.
44
45
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
                                            Yeah.
                                                   Okay.
                                                          But
46 the State of Alaska's responsible for the 600?
47
48
                   MR. ANDERSON: The Tier II permits, yes.
49
50
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Tier II. Yeah.
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00148
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN: I think they're down to
   400 now.
3
4
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                    400 now?
5
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
                                    Yeah.
7
8
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
                                            Yeah, two -- was
9
   that because of decline, or was that because.....
10
11
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN: (Indiscernible -
12 simultaneous speech)
13
14
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....200 were not used?
15
16
                   MR. ANDERSON: They said decline.
17
18
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Decline. Not because 200
19 were lost? Okay. Yeah, that was rumored that 200 never
20 got turned in, and I don't know how many ever got turned
21 in, but it's because of decline of the herd.
22
23
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN: They're easy to get. And
24 a man from Arizona got one of those permits. Got a plane
25 to come up, and got a caribou and went home.
26
27
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay. Thank you.
28
29
                   MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman?
30
31
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Wait a minute.
32
33
                   MR. HEYANO: Didn't BBNA last year do the
34 60 Tier II permits?
35
36
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Yes. Yes, didn't they?
37
                   MR. ANDERSON: We distributed -- they're
38
39 federal permits that we distributed.
40
41
                   MR. HEYANO: Right.
42
43
                   MR. ANDERSON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
44
45
                   MR. HEYANO: The 60.
46
47
                   MR. ANDERSON: And we did the same thing
48 with 40 this year.
49
50
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Used the same formula, it
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00149
   just kept getting smaller.
3
                   MR. ANDERSON: Yeah.
4
5
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Does that answer your
6
  question, Robert?
7
8
                   MR. HEYANO: Yes.
9
10
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
                                             Okay.
                                                    Is that all
11 from BBNA, or is there another report going on besides
12 that?
13
14
                                  That's all I have.
                   MR. ANDERSON:
15
16
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No? All right.
17 you very much, Ralph. Appreciate that. So we probably
18 should go back up then to that other item. Okay. U.S.
19 Fish and Wildlife Service, Subsistence Management, and that
20 would be Taylor Brelsford.
21
22
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                  Mr. T.
23
24
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Holler when you want a
25 break.
26
27
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
                                     Go sit in the middle.
28
29
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                    Pardon me?
30
31
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
                                     Hey, in the middle.
32
33
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Sit in the middle where the
34 fun all happens. Cliff, maybe you could help me hand out
35 -- there's three items.
36
37
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Taylor, about how long is
38 your report?
39
40
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   Well, I was going to
41 suggest that maybe we could do this in parts, and you can
42 decide how much time tonight. (Indiscernible, coughing)
43 2000 season.
44
45
                                     We'll take a five minute
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
46 break while you're writing that down. Everyone's leaving
47 anyway so let's just take a five-minute break and.....
48
49
           (Off record - 9:00 p.m.)
50
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00150 1 (On record - 9:05 p.m.) 2

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48 49

Taylor, talk to us. CHAIRMAN O'HARA:

MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Taylor Brelsford. It's certainly a lot of fun to be back with the Bristol Bay Regional Council. Walking in the room this even -- this afternoon was like old home week. to see a lot of familiar faces, and I'm real pleased to be 10 able to talk with you about some important new work and 11 some important successes that we're seeing in this resource 12 monitoring program in its first years. What I'm going to 13 propose is that we talk a little bit about sort of this 14 very first year, the year 2000, what we did this current 15 summer, then look ahead at projects for 2001, and I know 16 there's a lot of interest in what was submitted, where we 17 are in terms of making decisions, and in particular when 18 the Council will have full information about the projects 19 that are advanced and have an opportunity to submit your 20 advice to the Board. And then finally I want to be sure 21 that we kind of alert you to the upcoming schedule for the 22 projects for year 2002.

So in the briefing booklet, and I'll quit at any 25 point in this, if we decide that we want to start fresh 26 tomorrow morning, okay?

> That's okay. CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Carry on.

MR. BRELSFORD: In the briefing booklets, 31 we're at tab G. And those -- that first two-page item, 32 front and back, really gives a very quick summary of the 33 resource monitoring program, and I think most folks in the 34 Council are familiar with the fact that when the Federal 35 Subsistence Board entered into fisheries management, 36 actually the Secretary of Interior made a commitment that 37 we would create a new fisheries information program to try 38 and improve the accuracy and the extent, the scope of 39 fisheries data as a way of improving management for all 40 managers, for state and federal managers, so that over half 41 of the funding was committed to new fisheries information 42 projects.

As we've said many times with the Council, we 45 wanted to look at three different areas. One was stock 46 status and trends, another was harvest monitoring, and a 47 third was traditional ecological knowledge.

We've made quite an emphasis on this notion of 50 cooperative projects, and you'll read in the text that, you

know, we've looked for projects that had direct involvement of local communities or regional tribal associations. This again was a commitment that the Secretary has made, and we've -- and the Board has expressed continuing interest in. Dan, I think actually you were in some of these decision meetings, and you knew the scrutiny about ensuring that we were providing funding to the regional organizations, to existing strong programs in the State of Alaska, and then to some of the programs.

The kind of head count at the end of the summer was 12 that there were 83 local hire positions, summer seasonal 13 positions in the projects this summer, and out of those 83 14 local hired, 69 were Alaska native. So we think the 15 message has gotten out to all of the partners that one of 16 the purposes of this is to create a whole new level of 17 involvement for local people in fisheries science, as a 18 result of that, more understanding, more critical insight 19 into how the fisheries management process works.

So if you look at the back of that first page, you 22 would see that we spent a total of \$5.6 million in projects 23 in the year 2000. That's 45 different studies distributed 24 among the regions and with the percentages that you see in 25 that small table. There were about 160 proposals, and we 26 went down to about 45 that we were able to fund, so about 27 20 -- about a quarter of the submissions were actually 28 successfully funded. We think it's pretty significant that 29 we were able to dedicate 38 percent of that, or \$2.2 30 million to tribal organizations and local hires. The 31 Alaska Department of Fish and Game had budgets totalling 32 about just over that amount, 2.2, or 40 percent of the 33 total budget, and the federal agencies were responsible for 34 about 22 percent of the budget, or 1.2 million.

You would find later on in the -- behind that tab 37 an outline of the individual projects that were funded last 38 summer. There were, as I recall seven projects that were 39 funded in the Bristol Bay region, and you can see the 40 titles and the distribution of funding following these one-41 page descriptions. I think unless there are questions, I'm 42 going to simply leave it there in terms of talking about 43 individual projects from last summer.

I want to turn a couple of more pages back in the 46 book if you would with me. One of the real significant 47 projects that we took on, about ten pages back following 48 the spreadsheets, this kind of sidewise bit, you'll come to 49 a paper with a bold heading that says subsistence fisheries 50 harvest assessment working group, and then it says requests

for comments on draft recommendations. And I think many folks are familiar with the permits where you mark down how many fish you've taken for subsistence purposes throughout Bristol Bay, and in some areas of the state they have calendars where you get it at the beginning of the season, you fill them out and you send it in at the end of the season. There's a lot of concern on the part of 8 subsistence users that these estimates or calculations of 9 subsistence uses have to be accurate so that when we go 10 into allocation decisions, we have accurate information. 11 There is enough concern about the validity of harvest data 12 in the subsistence area that we actually funded a request 13 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in partnership 14 with the Alaska Intertribal Council to convene this working 15 group, and their goal was to review harvest assessment 16 methods all around the state, look at the issues or the 17 problems that local people saw and talk about solutions 18 that would allow us to strengthen harvest assessment in the 19 state, to look particularly at some areas where the 20 problems were greatest, and try and use some of the good 21 ideas that were working in other places to lift the level 22 of accuracy all around.

23 24

This was a pretty important project. It's one of the first times that we've actually had a substantial panel of tribal representatives, so there were five representatives from the tribal sector, or the village communities, sitting alongside three Alaska Department of Fish and Game members, and three federal representatives, conducting this review and sort of working their way towards some recommendations.

32 33

This letter, the cover letter describes the working 34 group and its purposes. A couple of pages back you would 35 see the membership of the working group, and then I've --36 we've kept two pages from the actual document, just to kind 37 of highlight some of what they were suggesting. 38 recommendations in a very general sense talk about 39 methodology. These written items or numbered items, one 40 through six talk about sort of the technical methods of 41 harvest assessment. Some of the rest look at things like 42 how local communities should be involved, and a commitment 43 to reporting results back to the community. So this would 44 be just a very simple overview of the areas in which this 45 working group has made far more detailed recommendations. 46 The full report of the working group at this point is about 47 30 pages, but this is kind of an overview.

48

And on the following page, you would say this 50 listing of guiding principles, and I think this is the sort

of thing where working groups really add a lot of value.
They help us set some long-term goals about how to work
together in a productive and a responsible way. I guess in
light of the time, I'm going to be real brief and say one
of the breakthroughs in these guiding principles has to do
with strengthening the commitment to local employment in
the conduct of harvest assessment projects, so we're
looking for more systematic ways to work with regional
associations or local communities on calendars, permits,
whatever those techniques should be about improving
accurate harvest monitoring.

12 13

So this is just kind of the overview of what the 14 harvest -- the working group came up with. They have asked 15 for review comments back by October 25th, and if there are 16 some folks in the committee that -- in the Council that 17 would be interested in the full report, we should ave 18 copies of it on the table here, and I would welcome a 19 careful look at that, perhaps on the part of the tribal 20 association resource folks, or village natural resource 21 departments. Please do take the time to read through and 22 offer some specific feedback to the working group if you 23 can.

24

25 Still on the sort of where we are in year 2000, the 26 next page refers to staffing to implement federal 27 subsistence fisheries. And the table sort of gives you a 28 quick overview. If you looked at the right-hand column on 29 this one, it reads like -- it looks like this. 30 maybe you can help John turn to the right page. 31 towards the back. Our commitment to Senator Murkowski was 32 that we were not building an empire, and that the federal 33 staffing would be the minimum necessary to fulfill the 34 responsibilities under Title VIII, and particularly in this 35 research area we would be working in the partnerships 36 rather than full-time federal employees. So what you see 37 here on the right-hand side is that the total staffing 38 planned to implement the new fisheries responsibilities 39 under the Katie John decision was 43 people spread 40 throughout the federal agencies. as of the time of this 41 writing in late August, we had hired about 21, just under 42 half of those, and we had -- we were still in the process 43 of hiring 22 or about half as well.

44

I don't see the figures here, but I guess there are 46 two things that we've set out to do. One is to maintain a 47 pretty strong record in Alaska native hire in the federal 48 subsistence program, and I think we've been able to elevate 49 some folks from within the program into new management 50 level positions, and to bring some new people into the

program who have the life experience of growing up in subsistence communities. And a second theme has been to try and bring into the federal program from its earliest months some of the career experience and expertise of ADF&G staffers. So particularly in the little group that I work with, the Fisheries Information Services Division, we have a considerable number of career folks who have recently retired after spending 20 or more years in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and so they are able to bring the kind of experience and judgment, the professional judgment that's involved in the fisheries management calls, particularly on the complex systems like the Yukon and the Kuskokwim River.

14 15

So I believe those were the key points in terms of looking at where we've been up through this current season, through the year 2000, I'll stop there and answer any questions that you might have about that before turning to 19 the new projects and where we're going in 2001.

20 21

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council

22 members?

23 24

MR. HEYANO: This subsistence harvest 25 monitoring, what does this all mean for the subsistence 26 user? More paperwork? Less paperwork?

27 28

MR. BRELSFORD: I think the main thing it 29 means is a stronger commitment to accurate information so 30 that when allocation decisions are being made, we can have 31 a little more faith in the figures about contemporary 32 subsistence levels. In some areas it's going to be 33 different kinds of paperwork. I think permit systems in 34 Southeast are terrifically under reported, and I think 35 there's some interest in doing either community 36 interviewing, house-to-house interviewing, or calendars as 37 a little bit more effective method. In some other areas I 38 don't think it's going to take much change. There are 39 differences by regions in the reporting rates, you know, 40 the participation of households turning back in the permits 41 or the calendars.

42

Actually for Bristol -- Bristol Bay is considered 44 one of the most accurate areas in routine subsistence 45 fisheries harvest reporting. The permit system is pretty 46 well in place. I think some of the key staffers in the 47 Subsistence Division are lifelong residents, know people 48 who are helping to get the permits out in individual 49 villages, and there's -- and the phone calls to follow up, 50 ensure that the reports come back in. It's a pretty strong

3

system in Bristol Bay.

most significant in the near term.

5 6

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The other difference is I think we want to work with more local partnerships in staffing the harvest assessment efforts so the follow-up after season to collect 10 permits or calendars in areas where they're not coming in 11 through the mail, we want to try and work with local tribal 12 associations. So I would say maybe that's the simplest 13 answer to what we're -- what changes you might see. 14 Probably rather little in the Bristol Bay area, because 15 it's been a pretty effective system already.

actually the one region where we think the changes will be

It is not strong in Southeastern Alaska, and that's

16 17

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

18 19

MR. HEYANO: And who would determine those 20 changes by area?

21 22

MR. BRELSFORD: Good point. The Alaska 23 Department of Fish and Game has the primary on-going system 24 for harvest reporting, and I think what we would like to do 25 is not substitute a separate federal system, but instead to 26 bring some federal resources into a joint and we hope 27 stronger program. So the Federal Board makes decisions 28 about federal funding that would go into this. It could be 29 in the form of these individual resource projects, like 30 we're going to talk about in a few minutes. It could be in 31 the form of joint contracts where ADF&G cooperates with a 32 regional organization to innovate, to make some changes in 33 the projects. I think -- our hope is that this working 34 group represents a pretty significant voice for local 35 communities in trying to guide whatever changes would come 36 down the road. In the area of things like ethics, of being 37 sure to report back to communities or providing employment 38 opportunities in the projects, those are things that I 39 think were very strong concerns to the native members of 40 the working group.

41 42

It's also true that several of the native 43 representatives on the working group were real concerned 44 about adding more traditional knowledge, more context 45 knowledge so that the harvest assessment is not just 46 numbers, but also carries something about the social 47 ramifications of harvest levels, the declines are not just 48 in the number of pounds of fish missing, but they have 49 impacts throughout the community. So that's actually 50 another kind of modification or improvement to the harvest

pro -- harvest assessment program that came out of the working group. The native reps in particular.

3 4

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert?

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MR. HEYANO: Well, I guess my concern, Mr. Chairman, is that I'm probably not knowledgeable at this time or anytime in the near future to make comments on the recommendations, and I could care less how some other 10 regions wants to obtain their subsistence harvest 11 information, but I guess where my concern lies is proposed 12 changes to this region, and if this working group is going 13 to make some proposed changes, then is there an opportunity 14 for us as a RAC to comment on those?

15

16 MR. BRELSFORD: I think we would like to 17 ensure that the regional councils are fully informed and 18 with a little more lead time about recommendations that 19 come out of this working group. I think people have been 20 through the process of working groups, an you know that if 21 it doesn't -- if there's not good communication, and if the 22 suggestions of a working group don't square with people's 23 understandings and expectations in the region, they don't 24 work. The Nushagak caribou cooperative management working 25 group, for example, didn't have any legal authority to 26 stomp its feet and say this is how we're going to manage 27 caribou. They had to create a meaningful consensus with 28 local people. And I think this harvest assessment working 29 group is only going to succeed, we're only going to make 30 improvements if they meet with the concurrence and support 31 of local communities. So again I can say that the results 32 of the working group will be widely communicated. 33 -- as I say, I don't think we're going to try and change 34 strong regions to do something different. We're not going 35 to fix what isn't broken. I think what we're going to try 36 and do is bring some of the other regions up to the same 37 standard, and in general Bristol Bay is seen as one of the 38 two or three strongest areas, so I hope that a year from 39 now you'll say calen -- the permit system looks about the 40 same as it did last year. I haven't seen any drastic 41 changes. I certainly haven't seen any backwards stats on 42 harvest monitoring.

43 44

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

45 46

MR. HEYANO: I just want to make it clear 47 that we as a RAC will be able to provide meaningful input 48 to the Federal Subsistence Board.....

49 50

MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

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MR. HEYANO: .....when these final
  recommendations are made, right?
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4
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Yes.
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6
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And since Bristol Bay is
  pretty much on its way already, you can take that and put
7
   it into more fish, and less committees and less expenses
8
9
   some place else where it really should be, you know.
10
11
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Well, now we're onto the
12 next project, how are.....
13
14
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay.
15
16
                   MR. BRELSFORD: .....we going to spend the
17 money in 2001.
18
19
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Let's do it.
20
21
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Do you want to move on?
22
23
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Sure.
24
25
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Let me look at Tim and see
26 if I missed anything on the 2000? I guess there is one
27 topic that was kind of the last paragraph, and that has to
28 do with providing staffing positions to help develop
29 resource monitoring projects in the regions. On that first
30 page, backside, bottom paragraph, it says the Federal Board
31 is planning to establish nine field positions through
32 competitive contracts with Alaska native and other
33 qualified rural organizations. The purpose of those
34 positions is to strengthen the development of projects,
35 identifying projects, putting together proposals, doing
36 some of the staff work that you've seen at BBNA or in these
37 cooperative discussions with Dan Dunaway and Troy Hammond.
38 We want to provide some core staff to regional
39 organizations to serve in that capacity. Our timeline for
40 this is to formulate the requests for proposals by the end
41 of this year and to receive bids from tribal associations,
42 regional fisheries organizations and so on, and then
43 evaluate those proposals, award contracts and we hope to
44 see these nine positions active by next summer. They would
45 be able to provide technical assistance during the summer
46 2001 field projects, and then help to design the projects
47 that would come up in the years following that.
48
           The nine positions would be fisheries scientists.
50 They would have the same professional qualifications as if
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they were state or federal employees. Our view is that there should be a balance between fishery biology and some of the social sciences that have worked in the subsistence program, so six fisheries biologists and three anthropologists is the idea. They'll be distributed among the regions, north to south, with a pretty heavy emphasis on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers where a lot of the fisheries budget, the studies budget is being spent.

So I wanted to at least make sure you were aware of 11 that. You'll hear quite a lot more about it in the January 12 training session. At that point we will be out in the 13 middle of public -- proposals will be out, we will be 14 discussing it with potential bidders at that time. So with 15 that let me stop on 2000 and if we're ready, we'll turn to 16 2001?

17 18

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9 10

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's how we spend it

19 next time?

20 21

MR. BRELSFORD: Pardon me?

22 23

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's how we spend it 24 next time? You dealing with 2001?

25 26

MR. BRELSFORD: I'm sorry?

27 28

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The 2001 represents what?

29 30

MR. BRELSFORD: The 2001 process represents 31 the projects that will be on the ground, on the fishing 32 grounds next summer, and we're -- we've just passed a very 33 key stage in decisionmaking as of today, so actually the --34 again, back towards the front of the package, what you 35 would see is a schedule, and highlighted on the front page 36 are the fact that after October 16th, after Monday, we will 37 announce the finalist projects. We've solicit- -- we 38 invited proposals back in May for projects to go in the 39 water next summer. We received about 220 proposals 40 statewide on September 15th, the deadline. Those projects 41 all together represented about \$18 million worth of field 42 research. We had to screen from the first submission, the 43 big pool of everybody who sent in anything, down to a set 44 of finalists. Our goal was to advance, move on to the 45 second phase a set of the best projects in each region, 46 representing about -- at this point what we've recommended 47 is about \$10 million worth of projects for what will be an 48 \$8 million budget. So there's a little bit of play in the 49 finalist pool.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Were....

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MR. BRELSFORD: Not everybody who's a finalist is going to get money, but they are the best projects being advanced. The finalists are going to be asked to develop these more complete research designs with all of the methods, all of the analytic protocols, all of the full design in it. That's about a ten to 15-page document, and we wanted the folks who were in best 10 contention, most competitive to be putting that kind of 11 extra effort into it. So we will announce on Monday the 12 finalists, those projects that are advanced to the second 13 stage, and after Monday, the submitters will develop the 14 research plan and submit it back to us on November 20th for 15 the final review.

16

17 In January, what I want to underscore is that in 18 early January, the regional council members will receive a 19 proposed package of research for 2001. It will have the 20 projects that we think are the best ones distributed by the 21 data needs, by the geographic issues in Bristol Bay, across 22 the other regions, with the right kind of partnerships, the 23 best mix, the best balance of projects that the staff could 24 come up with, we'll go out for public review in the month 25 of January. And the critical opportunity for the regional 26 councils will occur during that week of January 22nd to 27 26th when we'll talk -- we'll go through the projects in 28 detail, we'll talk about the also rhymes and the rationale 29 for them not being advanced, and you would provide your 30 final comments and advice to the Federal Board. The Board 31 will meet in late February to make the final decisions.

32

33 I know there's -- we've had a tough time getting a 34 major -- a multi-million dollar research program up and 35 running in a hurry, and I know one of the concerns that the 36 Bristol Bay Council has highlighted along with others has 37 been the need for clear criteria for the purpose of ranking 38 and evaluating proposals. So I wanted to be sure that 39 folks are really aware of the ranking factors. This is a 40 list that you've actually seen several times before. 41 highlights four major areas. The first of those has to do 42 with strategic priorities, and that is trying to ensure 43 that the focus of a project is sharp. So we need projects 44 that look at federal lands, not other lands, that look at 45 issues under the jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence We want to address conservation issues or 46 Board. 47 subsistence allocation issues. That's the sort of ran --48 those are the kinds of things that taken together tell us 49 that a project is on the mark. It is --- it has a good 50 strategic focus.

The second area is the technical and scientific method. We have to have confidence that the weir projects or the telemetry projects or the community interviewing projects are not duplicating something that was done before, or not being done in a haphazard way so that we can't trust the results. We want the methods to be sound ones.

The third area looks at past performance or 10 administrative expertise. We want to be confident that 11 when we let a contract for \$400,000, folks are ready to do 12 that project, and so their track record wold be one of the 13 criteria.

And then the fourth factor that we think is equally 16 important is this idea of community cooperative research, 17 that we look for building partnerships in conducting 18 projects, in bringing local people into the scientific 19 work, one step at a time. You don't drop folks in at the 20 deep end to run a weir without ever having done it before. 21 But we're looking for progressive, greater involvement on 22 the part of local folks. So those are the criteria.

24 What you would see on the backside of that page is 25 actually the rating sheet that was filled out when we went 26 through each of the 220 projects this last month, to pick 27 which ones were advanced and which ones would be dropped 28 back.

30 So I think most of you have seen the issues
31 statement which was distributed throughout the region as a
32 set of identified concerns by local communities. We were
33 asking projects to focus on these issues. I won't really
34 even go in -- open that up or go into it, but simply to
35 remind people that we tried to work from the grass roots up
36 in terms of looking for projects that addressed issues that
37 you guys and the communities recognized as important.

And then finally on the 2001 process, there's a 40 listing of the 47 projects that were submitted for the Bristol Bay area, and on this handout, what you have is the 42 title of the project, and most of those give you a pretty 43 clear picture of the river system involved, the kind of 44 method, if it's a weir, telemetry project, the 45 organizations in the middle column kind of point out which 46 groups and the ways in which some of the local communities, 47 local organizations are involved, and then you would see 48 budget information in the -- on the right-hand side.

There's actually three groups buried in this long

Stock status and trends is that first set of projects, the largest set. Then there's a set looking at harvest monitoring. And then finally there's a group that look at traditional ecological knowledge.

5 6

7

I mentioned that we had, you know, a whole lot more interest, a whole lot more good projects than we have budget to fund. In Bristol Bay specifically, we had \$3,300,000 worth of projects. And if you were to look at 10 the very back page of that handout, you'll see a budget 11 distribution by region and by data type, so if you go 12 halfway down, you'll see the Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula, 13 Kodiak area. We have an estimated budget for stock status 14 projects of 525 million -- \$525,000, half a million 15 dollars. We wanted to advance to the finalists' pool our 16 target for the finalists' projects was \$790,000. 17 preliminary recommendation from the staff was to advance 18 about \$800,000, almost \$900,000 worth of projects. We felt 19 there's some compelling issues in the Bristol Bay region, 20 some strong projects, so at the staff level, we're pushing 21 the envelope a little bit.

22 23

If you keep moving over, this middle column talks 24 about harvest monitory and TEK projects. We think we will 25 have about a quarter million dollars to spend, \$263,000. 26 Our target for finalists would have been as high as 27 \$390,000, and we actually have recommended \$262,000 worth 28 of projects.

29 30

So the grand total is we expect to spend about 31 \$788,000, three-quarters of a million dollars in projects 32 next summer, and at this point we have about 100 -- about 33 \$1.14 million in projects that have been advanced. So let 34 me stop there on the status of the 2001 program. I've gone 35 into a little more detail on this, Mr. Chairman, than in 36 other councils, because there have been some questions on 37 the phone calls before this week, and in the conversations 38 here about did we get projects, are we becoming a bit more 39 systematic about the evaluation process and so on. 40 stop and see if there are any questions or comments.

41 42

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members? Robert? Yes.

44 45

MR. HEYANO: Go ahead.

46 47

MR. SAMUELSEN: Go ahead. Go ahead,

48 Robert.

43 Fellers?

49 50

MR. HEYANO: Why are we put in with Alaska

Peninsula and Kodiak?

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MR. BRELSFORD: It's a good question. And it goes back to a decision that was made last summer to try and organize the monitoring program ecologically. looked at making sure that whole river systems were within a management area, a monitoring area. On the Yukon and Kuskokwim River, we didn't want to break it up in river segments based on regional council areas, so we ended up 10 looking at the Yukon and the Kuskokwim as being one 11 management area each. So ecological completeness was one 12 criteria.

13

14 The other criteria was the extent of federal lands 15 and the extent of subsistence fisheries occurring on those 16 federal lands, so some regions have large federal 17 conservation units on the rivers with substantial direct 18 subsistence fisheries in those river systems. Other areas 19 have a lot of federal land, but the subsistence fisheries 20 are in marine waters. And some areas, like Bristol Bay and 21 Norton Sound have a small amount of federal land, it's sort 22 of dispersed and fragmented, and much of it is in headwater It is primarily -- it -- lot of it is spawning 24 areas rather than lower river areas where the communities 25 are located and where the fisheries are occurring. 26 Togiak refuge would be an area in which direct fisheries 27 occur on the federal waters, but the Alaska 28 Peninsula/Becharof Refuge on this side of the bay would be 29 a federal conservation unit in which not a lot of directed 30 subsistence fisheries occurs relatively speaking. 31 tried to break this out in some even-handed way, a rational 32 way, and the end result was we combined the North Slope, 33 Kotzebue, and Norton Sound as one monitoring area, because 34 the total workload there was about equal to these other 35 larger regions, and then in Southwestern Alaska, we 36 combined Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak. Cook 37 Inlet and Gulf of Alaska are combined and it's a unit, 38 Southeast is a separate unit. So that was the reasoning 39 for it. It had to do with ecology and about workloads.

40 41

MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman?

42 43

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Go ahead.

44

45 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, Taylor, I was going 46 to ask the same question. We have nothing in common with 47 the folks in Alaska Peninsula. Bristol Bay's more in line 48 with the Kuskokwim folks. I think the same arguments that 49 you take for southern boundary, Bristol Bay southern 50 boundary, could be based -- them same arguments could be

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transferred to our westward, north westward boundary with
   the Kuskokwim folks. The people in Ivanof Bay, the
   Chiqniks, are Bristol Bay folks. They're part of Bristol
4
   Bay.
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б
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.
7
8
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Some of us attended the RAC
   meetings in Anchorage, and we were -- we felt mighty
10 uncomfortable being lumped in with the Alaska Peninsula and
11 Kodiak. If we go to that January meeting when AYK, Bristol
12 Bay and Area M come up, we're going to be killing each 13 other in that meeting. And if you think we're going to
14 walk into the Federal Subsistence Board meeting and sit
15 down....
16
17
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                      Holding hands, yeah.
18
19
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: .....at the same table with
20 them, you've got to be dreaming, because you're going to
21 see tensions running so high in January. I mean, we all
22 look at it as blood month. It's going to be the worse Fish
23 Board meeting we've ever gone to,....
24
25
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.
26
27
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: ....because they want our
28 scalp, and we want theirs.
29
                                      Throwing (indiscernible)
30
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
31 pipe bombs.
32
33
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: And it's going to be pretty
34 tough to get us to cooperate with the Peninsula boys on any
35 kind of federal or state meeting. We're going to have our
36 general along with us, too. So.....
37
38
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                    Well, I think we understand
39 the point. These are not natural alliances. If it was up
40 to you, you'd draw the map a little differently.....
41
42
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well,....
43
44
                   MR. BRELSFORD: .....and probably divide
45 the money a little differently, too.
46
47
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, why did we get
48 lumped in like that? I mean, that's -- it's not a matter
49 of where you drew the map and we didn't have a chance to
50 draw the map. We have less in common with Kodiak. Kodiak
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00164
   is an intercept fishery big time. I mean, like they take
   15 percent of the Chignik fish from Igvak, and they're all
   Kodiak fishermen permitted to go down there. And then they
  catch Cook Inlet fish. Put them in with Cook Inlet or
  something, and I don't know what you're going to do with
5
6
  Peninsula. But we really do belong in the AYK and Yukon.
7
   And I'm not real happy about being part of -- I don't think
   -- go ahead.
8
9
10
                   MR. HEYANO:
                                Well, for this process, since
11 you seem so convinced that we belong with Alaska Peninsula
12 and Kodiak, can you break it out by subdistricts so I can
13 look down here and see Bristol Bay? You know, $885,000,
14 right, total, advanced?
15
16
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   In stock status.
17
18
                   MR. HEYANO: Yeah.
                                       That looks pretty good
19 to me, but if I go back and dig through, maybe Bristol Bay
20 is down here with only a small portion of that.
21
22
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   Sure.
23
24
                   MR. HEYANO: Then it doesn't look very good
25 to me.
26
27
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   I think that's a fair
28 point. I believe you'd find that it's actually the other
29 way around, that we have a single project in year 2000 in
30 Kodiak, and I'm not -- I don't recall whether that was even
31 advanced.
             It's Buskin River, and I don't even know if
32 we're going to do that again in year 2001. On the Alaska
33 Peninsula we had -- that is below Port Moller, we had
34 nothing. We are actually going to do a -- I believe we
35 will advance a project in the Dutch Harbor area this time.
36 It's pretty modest. And what you will see is time and time
37 and time again projects on both sides of the bay. I can't
38 emphasize enough that the Bristol Bay region has been very
39 active from the ground level up in these community -- grass
40 roots community consultations about what kind of issues are
41 significant, in developing projects and moving forward.
42 I think when you see the break out by titles, -- I mean,
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CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin?

47 48

49 50

43 you can see at a glance that Bristol Bay is certainly not 44 the -- that would be, you know, the titles in here, Bristol 45 Bay is very, very well represented in it, and I'm confident 46 that will be the case in the final recommendations as well.

MR. SAMUELSEN: A further note, under the

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00165
   state system they had the regional councils. The state
  decided to lump Bristol Bay's.....
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4
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Southwestern.
                                                   Sure.
5
6
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: ....regional council with
7
   the folks from Area M.
8
9
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   Right.
10
11
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   That program arrived to us
12 dead on arrival.
13
14
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                  At an impasse.
15
16
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Dead on arrival.
17
18
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Right.
19
20
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   It was totally unproductive
21 and we wouldn't attend the meetings, and they wouldn't
22 attend the meetings.
23
24
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   Right.
25
26
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   I mean, what's happening
27 over in Israel with the Palestinians, you can relate it
28 right here.
29
30
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What did you say there,
31 John? We were making.....
32
33
                               Pipe bombs.
                   MS. KELLY:
34
35
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     We're only kidding, of
36 course.
37
38
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Well, I think, you know,
39 the burden of -- the point of the comments is to emphasize
40 that you want to see Bristol Bay treated fairly in this
41 process, and you're concerned that this set of regions,
42 this set of aggregations might operate against Bristol Bay
43 being considered fully on its merits. I think I understand
44 the concern, and I'd like you to walk with us through the
45 recommendations that land in January as to how these
46 projects will be distributed across the region, and if you
47 see a short coming at that point, it's -- you have a
48 specific and a concrete reason to tell the Board that this
49 configuration doesn't work.
50
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00166 MR. CHRISTENSEN: It's not going to work. We're not going to talk. CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I don't know how -it's known how it is, to what the depth it's cast in stone, 5 6 but we would hope that maybe there can be some lateral 7 movement or somewhere, because it just may not work out. 8 9 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. 10 11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. 12 13 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, I think I can speak 14 with real confidence for Tom Boyd and for Mitch Demientieff 15 that if this was a stupid thing, and we see outcomes that 16 are not constructive, that do disadvantage a region, that 17 are barriers to fair play between the regions, then we've 18 got to go back to the drawing board. And if we see a 19 result like that, you're not going to have trouble 20 convincing Tom Boyd and Mitch Demientieff it's time to do 21 something new. So I'm sure you guys have that kind of 22 trust in the leadership in the program. 23 24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comments, 25 Council members? 26 27 MR. HEYANO: The ranking factors, these 28 will be applied to the 2001 projects in January? 29 30 MR. BRELSFORD: They have been applied in 31 the screening process where we went from 200 projects to

MR. BRELSFORD: They have been applied in the screening process where we went from 200 projects to roughly 100. There's a worksheet, I actually brought a reference set in case people wanted to look, but these are the rating sheets filled out by a staffer on each of the 50 projects for Bristol Bay. When we go to the next step, we will have one staff technical review and one science peer reviewer, an outside -- a non agency expert in weir methods where it's weir projects, sonar methods for sonar projects. What we're trying to do is technical reviews that are fairly similar to what other science and research programs do, and to answer your question, yes, that is essentially -- those are the factors, those are the forms. When we come to you at the regional council meeting in -- the special meeting in January, what we will have is rationale statements that highlight the rating, the score of the projects on -- in terms of those four factors.

MR. HEYANO: So.....

47

48

49 50

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Anything else,

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00167
   Robert?
3
                   MR. HEYANO: Yeah, just to follow up then,
4
   if I was interested in submitting a proposal,.....
5
6
                                  Uh-huh.
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
7
8
                   MR. HEYANO: .....I would follow this sheet
9
  very closely, correct?
10
11
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   Correct.
12
13
                   MR. HEYANO: Okay.
14
15
                   MR. BRELSFORD: You would look at the
16 issues that were identified in the region, because these
17 are the concrete targets, and then you would say, I want my
18 project to demonstrate the strategic focus, I want
19 technically sound, I want strong administrative track
20 record, and I want partnerships. That's right. All of the
21 -- these were the materials that were sent out in May to
22 the folks, the potential bidders, the potential submitters
23 of projects.
24
25
                   MR. HEYANO: And then did you say you had a
26 copy of what some staffer's ranking was?
27
28
                   MR. BRELSFORD: I brought a reference set,
29 thinking that this being Bristol Bay, you guys like to go
30 to the details.
31
32
                   MR. HEYANO: Well, I don't have to go to
33 the details tonight, Mr. Chairman. I would like a copy
34 though, if that's possible?
35
36
                   MR. BRELSFORD: If you'd like.
37 50 proposals, about two pages each, and then there are an
38 equivalent number of rating sheets. What we will come to
39 you with is the distillation of this same information, but
40 we'll -- there's no.....
41
42
                   MR. HEYANO: I just want to.....
43
44
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   .....secrets. Certainly
45 happy to
46
47
                   MR. HEYANO: .....get a feel for how -- if
48 you could just give me an example or a copy of a proposal
49 that made high marks, and then an example.....
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00168
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Sure.
2
3
                   MR. HEYANO: .....of a proposal in Bristol
4
  Bay that made low marks. That's all.....
5
6
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Sure.
7
                   MR. HEYANO: .....I was looking for. And
8
9 you don't have to do that tonight.
10
11
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Darn. I was just getting
12 enthused. There's one from Nondalton that I was very proud
13 to see, and we'll save that for another time.
14
15
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robin, you had a
16 question?
17
18
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   I guess as a RAC we save
19 our comments until the February meeting or.....
20
21
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   The January special
22 meeting, that's correct. Just before the Board decides,
23 you guys have the....
24
25
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   January 22nd....
26
27
                   MR. BRELSFORD: .....cap stone.
28
29
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: .....meeting?
30
31
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Yes.
32
33
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think we were thinking
34 about looking at this money proposals in December though as
35 a RAC.
36
37
                   MR. BRELSFORD: In future years -- I'm
38 sorry. Go ahead.
39
40
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, go ahead.
41
42
                   MR. BRELSFORD: In -- as you know, we had a
43 sort of really scrambled schedule last year, and this year
44 we ended up revising the submission date for projects,
45 because it was originally scheduled for June, and the
46 fisheries are busy mobilizing field seasons in April, May,
47 getting -- and June, can't submit research designs, so we
48 postponed until September, and that means we're on a kind
49 of unusual schedule again this year. For the future, we
50 will be going to a schedule in which Board decisions are
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00169
  made in December of the year on the monitoring projects.
  That -- the schedule for 2002 is actually the last and
  final item when we turn to that, but for now the council's
  critical role, looking over the package would occur in
5
  January, this upcoming January of 2001.
6
7
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
8
9
                   MR. HEYANO: As a RAC, are we going to have
10 an opportunity to get together before the January meeting
11 to go over the short list? Or is the first time we're
12 going to be able to meet is going to be at the January
13 meeting in Anchorage?
14
15
                   MR. BRELSFORD: We'll provide you the
16 material to review in advance of the January meeting so you
17 won't see it cold. But we have not currently scheduled any
18 special meetings of councils between January 1st when the
19 package comes out, and January 22nd when the councils meet
20 together.
21
22
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you have a comment,
23 Robert?
24
25
                   MR. SAMUELSEN:
                                   Shirley's got a comment.
26
27
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, Shirley, I'm sorry.
28
29
                   MS. KELLY: When are we going to get this
30 package?
31
32
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Our commitment is to finish
33 it before the end of the year, so we have people scheduled
34 for meetings the week of the 18th of December, and staff to
35 put the package together between Christmas and New Year's
36 and have it out to you -- our obligation is to send it out
37 aft -- before January 1st.
38
39
                   MS. KELLY: A lot of us who sit on the RAC
40 are going to be heavily involved in the Board of Fish
41 meeting the month of January.
42
43
                   MR. BRELSFORD: I knew that's a.....
44
45
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     That's where we're going
46 to be at.
47
                   MR. BRELSFORD: .....terrific conflict, and
48
49 I -- we're going to have to problem solve. We're going to
50 have to figure out how to make this work. We can't delay
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the Board's decisions so late that the field teams can't get in the field. That's the kind of end deadline that we have to work back from. I think we are going to have to look at things like -- in the regional council training session the week of January 22nd, there are going to be caucus meetings, so you're not going to meet with ten regional councils to talk about 100 projects on every river system in the state at once. You're going to meet with Bristol Bay and perhaps one or two other regions will meet in caucuses and to go through those regions -- those projects together.

12 13

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, man.

14

15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We aim't going to talk 16 fish to them.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Now we want to have two 19 battle fields, one in.....

20

MR. BRELSFORD: And we may have to adjust 22 the schedule of that in light of if the Board of Fish 23 convenes on Bristol Bay on a particular day, that's not a 24 good day to ask the Bristol Bay council to.....

25 26

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: This one is looking like 27 a cake walk to me. Shirley, go ahead.

28 29

MS. KELLY: But you have to realize we're 30 not only going to be involved in just Bristol Bay issues. 31 Area M issues, we're going to be heavily involved in those 32 also.

33 34

MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

35 36

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Did anybody else have a 37 comment on this? Yeah, Robert?

38

MR. HEYANO: Is there any possibility that 40 we can have a work session, this RAC, before the January 41 meeting? Does it have to be a formal meeting? It would be 42 a work session to go over the short list.

43

MR. BRELSFORD: I think Tom has been 45 relatively willing to solve problems, and if there's a 46 problem, if we're not going to be successful in late 47 January because the Council hasn't had the time needed to 48 review the materials, then I think that's a compelling 49 reason to ask for it. I think we want to be sure that 50 there's a clear focus, that it makes the best sense to --

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00171
   it's a necessary step towards an effective meeting in late
   January, but if we make that case, I think we could -- I
   wouldn't say no in advance. We've done special meetings in
4
   many regions for many purposes, and.....
5
6
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, if we still have a
7
   spouse after January, maybe we'll get together in February
   and see if we can get -- you know, pay the alimony bill or
8
   something, and -- you're not laughing, Taylor.
9
10
11
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   Shirley, I.....
12
13
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, go ahead, Robin.
14
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess on this funding
15
16 formula, Arctic, Kotzebue, Norton Sound, Stevens just gave
17 them $16 million with their disaster for research up in
18 that area.
19
20
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Right.
21
22
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Along comes the Federal
23 Subsistence Board, gives them say $158,000. Looking at
24 Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula, $885,000. I guess my
25 concern is, is that we have pressing issues here in Bristol
26 Bay that are tied to subsistence.....
27
28
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                  Uh-huh.
29
30
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: ....i.e. the Kvichak.....
31
32
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.
33
34
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: .....and we don't have a
35 blue print or an idea. Ten years from now when we've spent
36 $70 million, what are we going to get for spending $70
37 million? Do we have -- there's priorities, but you can't
38 just take the criteria that is laid out and start awarding
39 money without it seems like having a goal, an objective in
40 mind besides.....
41
42
                   MR. BRELSFORD: A comprehensive plan.
43
44
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: .....it's kind of like
45 teacher's pay. Do you ever hear of a teacher getting paid
46 enough? No. They always want more, and it gets into that
47 circle. You know, in ten years we could spend $72 million
48 in research and still not know -- still have the same
49 problems that we have today, and not know as -- probably as
50 much. So, you know, I'm real concerned. We've got a
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window of opportunity until about 2008 when our senator, senior senator retires, and then it's payback time to Alaska from other senators, and all this beautiful funding sources are going to drop off. And I think we have a unique window of opportunity to really spend some good money in some good research areas.

7 8

5

MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

9

10 MR. SAMUELSEN: And I'm not saying that the 11 proposals that we funded last year were bad proposals. 12 fact, all of them were good proposals. But I think as a 13 RAC member, and trying to project and for the betterment of 14 the future, of the region, and a better understanding of 15 the resource, that what we're working on is about a 25 16 piece puzzles, but every piece is from a different puzzle. 17 And we don't have it all sorted out. And I think that's 18 Robert's question, and I think that's Dan's question, just 19 looking at the research that we funded last year, the 20 potential list of projects for this year, and I think in 21 Bristol Bay, you know, I don't care what they do in the 22 Yukon-Kuskokwim, or the other regions, but in Bristol Bay, 23 I think we need to as a RAC and the Federal Subsistence 24 Board have got to have a definitive avenue that we're going 25 to travel down....

26

MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

27 28

MR. SAMUELSEN:everybody knows not 30 only the criteria, but the types of projects we're going to 31 be funding.

32 33

MR. BRELSFORD: Sure.

34 35

35 MR. SAMUELSEN: And why we're -- why are we 36 funding them projects, because I'd hate to see us look back 37 ten years from now and say, boy, we spent all that money, 38 and we're worse off today than we were ten years ago.

39

MR. BRELSFORD: I think the focus to date 41 has been on coordination and value added We have worked 42 very carefully to ensure that no project duplicates a 43 project that's already out there, that we're working in 44 concert with the identified needs, the identified data 45 needs among all of the managers, among state Fish and Game, 46 state Sport Fish, state Subsistence Division. We've worked 47 pretty hard to do that so far, and I think the packages 48 that we put forward will reflect -- they will look a lot 49 like the kinds of research that you all have heard about 50 over the last 15 years. They will not be picked out of

thin air. I'm struck, for example, by the fact that last year sockeye on the Kvichak were a concern, and we had a single project looking at that species in that system.

This year it's a crisis and we have a suite of projects that look at recreational uses, population status, traditional knowledge and harvest monitoring. I think we're going to have to respond to the urgency of that crisis, and I think it will demonstrate that we have essentially a coordinated and a needs-driven, an issues-10 driven research program.

11

12 There are some folks who have suggested that we 13 should have not spent the first nickel until we could 14 prepare comprehensive research plans for each region or for 15 each drainage. My sense was we couldn't tell the Congress, 16 thank you very much for the first five and a half million 17 dollars, we're thinking about what to do with it. 18 we had to become active right away. And my own picture is 19 that we learn as we go a little bit. That we built on the 20 identified needs, the identified research efforts that were 21 already in place before the federal program, we expand on 22 those and we continue to adapt in each year. So I hope we 23 answer -- we meet the same test that you're suggesting, 24 Robin, that every project does something significant for 25 the Federal Board's responsibilities, and that none of us 26 would look back at the end of two years, much less ten 27 years, and say that was a colossal waste of money. But how 28 to get from here to there, whether major regional planning 29 efforts is the best approach, or these kind of coordination 30 efforts within subregions, so on, I think we're still 31 experimenting a little bit on the best model to do that. 32 It is well within bounds for a tribal natural resource 33 program, or some other set of parties, to come forward and 34 say, we think a major planning effort, a major 35 comprehensive research plan is a good value, and we think 36 it would cost this much and would, you know, involve this 37 group of players. Nobody's done that yet in any of the 38 projects last year or this year. There have been these 39 subregional efforts, one of this occurred in Bristol Bay 40 last year under some other funding, so I would say if you 41 see the way to do that in a big initiative, a project 42 initiative, we'd really welcome it.

43 44

44 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I think, Mr. 45 Chairman, if I may.....

46 47

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure. Go ahead.

48

MR. SAMUELSEN:step further, getting this information back to our level where we understand it.

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00174
1
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.
2
3
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Everybody's agreeable when
4
  you're -- when they're asking you for money. And once they
5
   get the money.....
б
7
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Right.
8
9
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: .....you know, you could go
10 to Dillingham and ask what's going on up in -- or to
11 Togiak, and what studies are going are going on in Togiak
12 Lake, and you could have $5 million worth of studies going
13 on in Togiak Lake, but the people that those studies are
14 going to effect, they'll know nothing about it.
15 there's....
16
17
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   Right.
18
19
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: .....no reverse, there's no
20 money set aside here I see to get that money -- some of
21 that money used to take this.....
22
23
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Can.....
24
25
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: .....information and
26 provide it to the people that's being affected. And I
27 think that's a very important part that's been.....
28
29
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Right.
30
31
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: .....that's been
32 missing....
33
34
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Right.
35
36
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: .....in all the research in
37 Bristol Bay, you've got U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
38 you've got Fish and Game FRI, and you know, they all get
39 together when it's time to share the money, and once they
40 get their money, they're pretty territorial, and pretty
41 clannish within their own agencies. And I think these
42 studies need to come back down to the village level, and
43 our government level. The information's got to be
44 rewritten so we understand it. And I think Robert used the
45 phrase so we don't use it just to light fires.
46
47
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   I agree. Communications
48 strategies is a big part of how we develop community based
49 research programs. If we don't bring results back, then
50 it's not believable, it doesn't strengthen the confidence,
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the quality of management program over all. We're trying some things in some areas. Some of these projects involve partnerships that are intended to increase communication with local communities, but I think that is an area that we still have a lot of learning to do, a lot of growing to do.

7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Where there's a lot of --8 there's a lot of mistrust in Bristol Bay about gathering 9 information, because a lot of times they come in friendly 10 to gather information to use it against the native people 11 in Bristol Bay, time after time again.

MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other
18 comments, Council members? Taylor, I think that where as
19 Bristol Bay is such a massive commercial endeavor on the
20 ex-vessel value that we talk about on fish, and yet when it
21 comes right down to the issue, subsistence is our first
22 priority. And they'll take this amount of money, I guess
23 they'll put in the terms I wouldn't want, the bottom line
24 has got to be we've got to produce more at the subsistence
25 level for this dollar amount, and that's exactly what we
26 want. And however you go about getting that without a lot
27 of bureaucracy, or less of it, we want that bottom line up
28 there, too.

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute takes one percent of our money, 40 percent of that budget goes out of Bristol Bay, and we get no return for that 40 percent, because they don't market any domestic salmon in America. It's in England and Japan. And when I chaired the board and when I chaired the salmon committee, and I said we want the bottom line to affect our 40 percent represented in this organization, and it never happened. The money was just spent because none of our fish goes there.

And I guess that's just kind of a word picture to 41 tell you that that bottom line has got to produce more fish 42 in Lake Clark and the whole system's got to get healthier 43 because of it, because this is a lot of money to deal with. 44 I guess you get the picture.

MR. BRELSFORD: I got it.

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Good. What 49 else -- what's the next step here?

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00176
1
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   In....
2
3
                                     We're going to quit here
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
4
   shortly and then start out tomorrow morning.....
5
6
                   MR. BRELSFORD: And I say.....
7
8
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....but we'll give you
9
   what we have left.
10
11
                   MR. BRELSFORD: .....glory.
12
13
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Glory.
14
15
                   MR. BRELSFORD: I wanted to highlight the
16 last item, which is a different schedule, a different
17 calendar for the projects that would be in the water in
18 year 2002, so it's the last item. I want people not to be
19 sort of surprised when these deadlines come looming up.
20 -- in the pages -- we're about six or eight pages back from
21 tab E -- I'm sorry from tab G at this point. You'll see
22 one that says a new schedule for fisheries projects, 2002
23 and beyond. And kind of the crunch that we're trying to
24 avoid in the future has to do with needing a special
25 meeting for the councils to review the resource monitoring
26 projects to the Board's decisions. So last year you had to
27 do that in January with very short notice. We were really
28 scrambling. This year we end up having to convene a
29 special meeting of the councils in January to review the
30 projects. The Board acts in February. We'll still be
31 making the field season.
32
33
           But we want to fix this so that the resource
34 monitoring project package comes before the council in the
35 regularly scheduled meetings, so on this top sheet you'll
36 see a couple of highlights. One is that we're going
37 to....
38
39
                                     Everybody has this page?
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
40
41
                   MR. HEYANO: No, which page are you on?
42
43
                   MR. BRELSFORD: It says 2002 and beyond.
44
45
                                     That's a sign.
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
46 quit.
47
48
                   MR. HEYANO: Under tab G?
49
50
                   MR. BRELSFORD:
                                   Tab G.
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00177 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Back about two or three 2 pages. 3 4 MR. BRELSFORD: It's not very far back in. 5 It's actually the third sheet. 6 7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: New schedule for fisheries projects, dash 2002 and beyond. And those dates 8 9 there are what you're talking about? 10 11 MR. BRELSFORD: Correct. 12 13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. 14 15 MR. BRELSFORD: So the next round of 16 projects for 2002, the next opportunity to submit projects 17 comes pretty soon. It starts in November of 2000 and the 18 deadline for submissions is February of 2001. It's not a 19 year away, it's six months away. 20 21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, that's it. 22 23 MR. BRELSFORD: And if you look on the 24 following page, there's a table. This is actually out of 25 your council booklets, the operations manual, so some folks 26 might have seen this already. Running down the left-hand 27 column, if you turn -- look down to September, October, 28 what you'd see is that this monitoring -- the annual 29 resource monitoring plan, the package of proposals for the 30 regions, comes to you in your fall council meetings, so 31 after this special meeting this year, we would be coming to 32 the fall meeting each year with the annual monitoring plan, 33 the set of projects, budgets, balanced issues in the 34 regions. In order to -- we want to do that so the board 35 can make decisions in December, the same time they're 36 making regulatory decisions on fisheries, and then the 37 projects would -- we would be able to start writing 38 contracts at the first of the year, have a little head 39 start on the field seasons after that. So this is a 40 transition year, the schedule that we're working with right 41 now. In the future we want to turn -- rely on the 42 regularly scheduled regional council meetings instead. 43 44 So I think some of the details on this will be a 45 little clearer when -- in the morning and as we get 46 started, I -- the main thing is I want people to realize 47 that only a couple of months from now, we will be

48 announcing to the public the 2002 monitoring project 49 submission, the opportunity to submit new proposals. It is just a few months away when we

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00178
   start all over again for 2002.
3
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: February 1? February 1?
4
5
                   MR. BRELSFORD: February 1 is the deadline
6
   for the first submission. And then we'll do the staff work
7
   through the spring and early summer, and then in the fall
  council meeting in September, next fall, you would have the
  full package, the regional package for your close review.
10 So not to belabor the details, just so it doesn't come as a
11 surprise.
12
13
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     What else do you have for
14 us before your report's done?
15
16
                   MR. BRELSFORD: I'm completely and.....
17
18
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're completely
19 and....
20
21
                   MR. BRELSFORD: .....thoroughly finished.
22
23
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....thoroughly done.
24
25
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you.
26
27
                   MR. SAMUELSEN: I notice that one, two --
28 he's got B, C, D, E.
29
30
                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Statewide rural.
31
32
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Statewide rural? Mr.
33 Chairman, I'm finished on fisheries monitoring projects.
34
35
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we got excited.
36 C, D, E, F, and G. I would certainly welcome a recess
37 until tomorrow. The -- there are a couple of other issues
38 from the Office of Subsistence Management. I have one
39 other area and Tim has a couple, but depending on your
40 stamina, we would be ready bright and early if you wish, or
41 we'll continue now.
42
43
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's the wish of the
             To keep going?
44 Council?
45
46
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN: How much more have we got
47 to go? Now much more have we got? Three?
48
49
                   MR. BRELSFORD: I have a one-pager on the
50 statewide rural determinations, and, Tim, you've got?
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00179
                   MR. JENNINGS: I have items C and D,
  consultation with the state and the fisheries training.
  That will take approximately five minutes each depending
4
  upon questions.
5
б
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
                                     No questions.
7
8
                   MR. JENNINGS: Cliff....
9
10
                                     That will be new for this
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
11 council.
12
13
                   MR. JENNINGS: And Cliff is going to cover
14 F.
15
16
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We've got another half
17 hour of work here to do.
18
19
                   MR. CHRISTENSEN:
                                     Yeah.
20
21
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Let's take a break
22 and then come back and pick it up. We'll work a little
23 longer.
24
25
           (Off record - 10:12 p.m.)
26
27
           (On record - 10:20 p.m.)
28
29
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Okay. Taylor, where are
30 we at?
31
32
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 The one remaining item that I was responsible to present to
34 you has to do with the statewide rural determinations, and
35 very generally this has to do with the fact that just
36 following the year 2000 census the regulations require a
37 review of which communities in Alaska are rural and which
38 ones are urban, so that any changes in population or in
39 economic characteristics, or in harvest patterns, any of
40 those changes that might have effected urban and rural
41 community status are given a close look. We do that every
42 ten years. It was -- the federal program began shortly
43 after 1990, so they began that -- on that schedule. In the
44 very near term, by about 2003, the Board will have to look
45 at the census data and make those kinds of determinations.
46 So the flyer, the one-pager on this is towards the very
47 back of this tab, of tab G. It actually is just before the
48 art contest picture.
49
50
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thumb back.
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MR. BRELSFORD: So again, what the Board is setting out to do now is to get ready for the regularly scheduled rural determination review. It occurs on a tenyear cycle.

5 6

What they're doing special this time, and the reason we're sort of bringing it to the attention of the councils is that the Board is right now developing a contract request, or a request for proposals, inviting third-party academic or research groups to prepare some advice, to develop a set of criteria and a set of data sources, the kind of data that the Board ought to be looking at in order to distinguish urban from rural communities.

15

16 There has been a great deal of controversy in some 17 parts of the state about rural determinations. Some of 18 those date back a few years, but most intensively the Board 19 has made a finding on the Kenai Peninsula that has been 20 challenged. Part of that challenge has to do with the 21 criteria, the analytic soundness of the approach, the 22 various measures and the validity of data that the Board 23 has used in making rural determinations, so on one case, 24 one controversial area, a whole lot of problem. 25 ahead a couple of years, the Board has to do this 26 statewide, and what they're saying is we need to take a 27 fresh look at this. We need to hire an independent expert 28 contractor to review the demographic kinds of information, 29 the economic information, the harvest pattern information 30 and come up with a framework for making those decisions, a 31 set of criteria and associated measurements that will be 32 more defensible. So that's the purpose of this upcoming 33 contract, to set up an analytic framework for the Board's 34 rural determinations. And again that will -- those 35 determinations will occur later, about 2003, but in 36 preparation for that, we want to go to the -- go back to 37 the drawing board on the analytic framework.

38 39

There's some details about what the statement of 40 work is going to include. There's a technical evaluation 41 panel that has to review bids. This is a contracting 42 matter, so we anticipate some universities in Alaska, some 43 research firms in Alaska, perhaps some universities from 44 Outside would submit bids, and then there's a set of 45 criteria to evaluation the proposals and a set of -- a 46 technical evaluation panel that's responsible for that.

47

Of crucial importance to the councils is the fact 49 that the Board wants to include council participation in 50 reaching the decisions on how to change the rural

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6 7 8

9

determination process, how to change those criteria, so in a fashion that's very similar to the participation of two council chairs on the decisions implementing the fisheries responsibilities, the Board is requesting that the council chairs together identify some representatives that would work with the Board on the rural determination issues.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: From our council?

MR. BRELSFORD: From the ten councils. So 11 -- in the fisheries issue, the ten council chairs met 12 together and identified two representatives to meet wit the 13 Board. Dan O'Hara has been one of the two, and Willy 14 Goodwin from the Northwest Arctic has been the other 15 representative. In a very similar way, when the Board is 16 working on the rural determination preparations and later 17 on when they're actually making those judgments, at this 18 point they're asking for the same kind of regional council 19 participation.

20 21

I guess I want to finish by saying that we're doing the homework right now, but at a later time, somewhere in 2003, we will start this rural determination process. And this is a set of federal rural making, a set of regulatory decisions, so it's subject to public notice and public review and public discussion in the same way that every regulation decision the Board makes. So there will be notices in the Federal Register, there will be notices to the regional councils and to the public in general. When we get to the actual decisionmaking stage on rural determinations, we want to be sure that the councils understand that you have an on-going role in that, as well as this opportunity for some regional council chair representations in the Board discussions leading up to the determinations.

36 37

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you.

38 39

MR. BRELSFORD: That's it.

40 41

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Let's -- go ahead, 42 Robin. As if there's not going to be any discussion on 43 this one. Robin?

44 45

MR. SAMUELSEN: I'll use Sitka for example, 46 because I was there last week. Sitka has a population of 47 roughly 8,000 people. There's a tribal government there 48 that's probably one of the longest tribal governments 49 recognized in the State of Alaska that has roughly 3,000 50 members. Under the ANILCA criteria, they're bumping up

against becoming an urban center. But you still have the core of the community that was always there, that when the first white man came and they had a little battle their first week, and after that they said, okay, you can share in our resources and live amongst us. And that non-native population has grown much faster than the native population. And you're going to hit the rural standard. You're still going to have -- the government has a trust responsibility to the native folks that are living there, 10 and under Title VIII of ANILCA it seems that one of the 11 changes I would like to see is that community, those 12 natives in that community that have long term customary and 13 traditional use of that resource are not deemed an urban 14 center, that they get -- somehow be recognized who they 15 are, and recognize their cultural ties to the resource. 16 You know, that's a positive change.

17

As far as trying to be defensible, I think that -19 I can't remember any cases that a judge has looked at a
20 regulatory body and if that regulatory body applied the
21 eight criteria and in a true sense, and followed the eight
22 criteria to the sense of the law, that would say that that
23 decision was arbitrary and capricious. I think the eight
24 criteria since the formation of ANILCA has stood the test
25 of time, and the Board's decision to make Cook Inlet a
26 rural area surely brought everything to the forefront,
27 including the politicians screaming for reversal. It
28 shouldn't affect the 200 and some other communities of the
29 State of Alaska.

30 31

On this case of the halibut, subsistence halibut, there's 118 communities out there that qualify for subsistence halibut. 86,000 people roughly, 40,000 native and 46,000 non-native.

35

MR. BRELSFORD: Well, whenever you come to 37 the Bristol Bay Council, you better be ready for details. 38 Robin has highlighted one of the kind of boundary cases 39 that represents a difficult decision. Saxman right next to 40 Ketchikan is a tough case. Sitka is a tough case. Douglas 41 right next to Juneau might be a tough case. It's -- 42 there's an argument, a dispute on the part of the folks in 43 Douglas now. Kodiak is a tough case. Kenai Peninsula is a 44 tough case. Adak was easy. When the base moved away, it 45 is clear that that community is no longer urban in the way 46 that it was with 6,000 residents and a military 47 installation.

48

We've got a lot of sorting out to do to work out criteria that are going to make clear and publicly the kind

of decisions that the public's going to support about some of these difficult cases. There's a lot of population growth, a lot of economic change in many parts of the state. What we're trying to do is to reach outside of the federal staff at this point and turn to some folks with expertise in -- I mean, there are some disciplines, rural sociology, geography, sociology, to look at how measurements, data can be drawn together in a coherent analysis to support those decisions. I don't want to go into a lot of detail, except to say, Robin, that the eight factors actually refer to c&t decisions,....

12 13

MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

14 15

MR. BRELSFORD:not to the rural 16 determinations. So in rural determinations we've talked 17 about population. As you know, below 2,500, between 2,500 18 and 7,000, and larger than 7,000, and then there's some 19 other fine print. But it really is a very separate set of 20 decisions than the eight factors for c&t determinations.

21 22

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions, comments, Council members? Yeah, Robert?

2425

MR. HEYANO: Why did the Board decide to go 26 outside the agency? Why didn't they do it in-house with 27 the staff they had? You -- I would think that that's where 28 expertise lie.

29 30

MR. BRELSFORD: I think in general they 31 reason that Congress funds the executive branch to 32 implement the statutes is they believe the expertise is inthat's the normal course of events. I think what 33 house. 34 is special here is that there has been a lot of challenge 35 about the regulations, the measures, the indices that have 36 been used, have been developed and employed by the federal 37 staff. And it's a fairly difficult area in which a lot of 38 us don't have a lot of expertise. So the end result is the 39 Board's trying to solve two problems. One is objectivity, 40 sort of step outside of the dispute, inside the federal 41 agencies, turn to an independent third party. And the 42 other is specialization, is try to turn to strong 43 recognized research and academic programs with expertise in 44 the area, and ask for some advice.

45

I guess this leads me to say that the Board is not 47 forfeiting its responsibility to make the regulations or to 48 later on apply those regulations in these determinations. 49 What comes back from a contractor is advice. It's 50 recommendations. It's well-developed recommendations if

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00184
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we've chosen a good contractor, but the Board finally has to make a decision, and that, too is a public process. regulations that govern rural determinations now are in the Federal Register. You guys might have seen them at the tail end of the council member operations manual, and if the Board agrees to change those, they also have to do that 7 in a public setting with public notice, regional council opportunity to be heard. So the main reason that the Board has turned outside has to do with objectivity and 10 expertise. But there will be the normal Board 11 decisionmaking with public involvement before those 12 regulations would actually be changed. You don't delegate 13 to a contractor rulemaking decisions.

14 15

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions, 16 Council members?

17 18

MR. SAMUELSEN: Just one follow up.

19 20

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

21

22 MR. SAMUELSEN: You raised Adak as the 23 example, military base and now it's an economic center for 24 fishing activities. I don't know if it meets the rural 25 determination or not even though it's been turned over. 26 And it was slipped through on the halibut subsistence 27 proposal, but it's -- there was a motion to bring it up in 28 the December meeting to delete Adak, because Adak hasn't 29 gone through a c&t determination, nor a rural determination 30 for halibut. And I think there's different steps. 31 say that because Naknek has a rural determination. Naknek 32 had to go through steps to get c&t findings, the eight 33 criteria where Adak hasn't. So you can't just -- otherwise 34 we could name, I don't know if you know the gentleman, 35 Chuck Bundard at Trident Seafoods, if he decides to start a 36 new plant on an island, does he get a rural determination? 37 Does he automatically get a c&t determination on them fish 38 stocks that are around that island? No, he doesn't. And 39 we had to qual -- all out communities in Alaska has to 40 qualify. We had to qualify through two steps, a rural 41 determination, once we got that determination, then we had 42 to qualify for a c&t finding on the various stocks.....

43 44

MR. BRELSFORD: Uh-huh.

45 46

MR. SAMUELSEN:that our people used.

47

48 MR. BRELSFORD: There are parallels between 49 the decisionmaking process you described -- this is the 50 International Halibut Commission that's making the

00185 decision, or NIMS? 3 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, the North Pacific 4 Halibut.... 5 6 MR. BRELSFORD: North Pacific..... 7 8 MR. SAMUELSEN:Fishery Management. 9 10 MR. BRELSFORD:Fisheries Management 11 Council, sorry. There are parallels. Strictly speaking 12 the Board operates under I believe a separate statute for 13 the subsistence management purposes, and you're specific 14 point that the Board has made no new decisions regarding 15 Adak is in fact correct. That's put for another day. 16 was trying to make the point that changes occur, and some 17 of them are fairly simple to evaluate, and other changes 18 are much more complex to evaluate. 19 20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other 21 questions, Council members? 22 23 MR. SAMUELSEN: No. 24 25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You know what, Taylor, it 26 looks to me like the Federal Board is just really afraid to 27 make a hard decision. I think that Kenai thing has scared 28 them, if I might express an opinion, and I don't think they 29 want to be faced with that political pressure. And I'm not 30 for -- you know, the word you used here earlier was 31 defensible. That says a lot when you talk about 32 defensible. And, hey, we might end up in court. 33 happened before. But I'm not so sure this third party -- I 34 guess when you don't know what or who they are, you're 35 always kind of concerned about what they're going to do to 36 you, you know. 37 38 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. 39 40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You used the word 41 university. Do you know how scary that is to have a 42 university come up and give you what might be a defensible 43 decision on subsistence? They can't hardly even run their I mean, I sat on the World Trade Center board, 44 own school. 45 and they were an extension of the university. Do you know 46 what a mess that is? You don't even want to get into it. 47 So I'm not necessarily saying, oh boy. I really want to

48 see this third-party organization because we have a

49 defensible, you know, -- Sheldon Katchetag. He's the guy 50 we need. Strike fear to everybody's heart. He's a good

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00186
  guy. Yeah.
3
                   MR. HEYANO: Well, I think, you know, Mr.
  Chairman, you bring up a very valid concern, and I hope
5
  Taylor would bring this back to the Federal Subsistence
  Board is that we are extremely concerned with this type of
7
  action, and where this is going. And I personally can't
  support it at this time. I think if you want a defensible
  position, the thing you do is you take all your money and
10 you go hire yourself the best attorney.
11
12
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                     Yeah.
13
14
                   MR. HEYANO: You know, your term of expert
15 is extremely frightening to me when he's going to be
16 determining, or he's going to be helping you people set
17 criteria for determining rural and non rural, and the
18 impacts that have to the people we represent.
19 we can't do it, if we can't come up with a defensible
20 position in-house, maybe we need to clean the table and
21 bring some new players to sit in the chairs to take on that
22 responsibility, because that's the whole crux.
                                                   Those are
23 the type of decisions that this system has to make on their
24 own. Who is more expert in Alaska?
25
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's just like hiring a
26
27 biologist from Cornell to run the Bristol Bay fishery
28 program who's never even seen a stream in Bristol Bay,
29 never been near one. It's about that farfetched. And that
30 is some of the fears we live with with the federal
31 government, is that, you know, these great big spikes here
32 and there that go on and on and on, and they build a
33 bureaucracy and here we are today. So those are just
34 little something to think about tonight, Taylor. We like
35 you personally a lot, by the way. We love having you here.
36
37
                   MR. BRELSFORD: And I want to keep it that
38 way.
         That's why.....
39
40
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
41
42
                   MR. BRELSFORD: .....I ain't doing it.
                                                           No.
43
44
45
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You do a very good
46 job.....
47
48
                   MR. BRELSFORD: I take the....
49
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CHAIRMAN O'HARA:making a

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00187
   presentation.
3
                   MR. BRELSFORD: .....point and I will.....
4
5
                    CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                      Yeah.
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7
                   MR. BRELSFORD: .....offer the feed back
   directly and specifically to Tom about the concerns of the
   Council. It is a Board decision. We've been given
10 directions, we're marching down the road.
11
           I will say that Laura is the key staffer organizing
12
13 the preparation of materials. I actually serve on this
14 technical evaluation panel along with Jim Fall from the
15 Department of Fish and Game, Don Calloway, a colleague that
16 I believe you've all met in the Park Service, and a Forest
17 Service sociologist. Our first reaction was, oh, my God,
18 here's another low bid crisis staring us in the fact that
19 -- and we have sent our time trying to specify the
20 responsibilities and the qualifications needed for a bid to
21 ensure that folks are really focused on the ANILCA
22 framework, on implementing this statute, on recognizing the 23 context of subsistence harvest data, of the kind of
24 qualitative elements of the subsistence way of life.
25 doing our best to make sure that this doesn't, you know,
26 totally go off the track. But I will pass on.....
27
28
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:
                                      One....
29
30
                   MR. BRELSFORD: .....your concerns.
31
32
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, one last question,
33 or we -- Council can ask as many questions as they want.
34 Go ahead, Robert.
35
36
                   MR. HEYANO: Well, I guess, you know, in
37 the future, Mr. Chairman, I think decisions like this that
38 could have tremendous impact need to start from the -- from
39 a lower level and get the RAC -- at least the RAC
40 participation before this -- before the Subsistence Board
41 makes a determination, you know. It seems to me that the
42 preferred method I would see is that if the Federal Board
43 wrote us a letter and say, you know, we're having problems
44 with this, and we're trying to resolve it, and here are
45 some of the options we're considering. We would like your
46 input.
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48
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Where's the money
49 going.....
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00188
                   MR. HEYANO: This is.....
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3
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....to come from to do
4
  this?
5
б
                   MR. HEYANO: .....this is serious.
7
8
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Laurie, it's $150,000
9 that's set aside?
10
11
                   MS. JURGENSON: Yeah.
12
13
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I mean, out of our
14 budget?
15
16
                   MR. BRELSFORD: It comes out of the Federal
17 Subsistence -- out of the Office of Subsistence Management.
18 I think the contract amount is on the order -- it is
19 150,000 that's been set aside for this first contract to
20 develop the analytic criteria.
21
22
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, anything else that
23 you've got there? We're not going to.....
24
25
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Lord, no.
26
27
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....kill the messenger
28 tonight.
29
30
                   MR. BRELSFORD: Man, I had enough fun.
31
32
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Now that we're all wide
33 awake.
34
35
                  MR. BRELSFORD: Yeah.
36
37
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who's next? We can
38 hardly wait. Get up here.
39
40
                  MR. BRELSFORD: Why don't you go do c&t.
41 It's kind.....
42
43
                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. We've done our
44 c&t. Our c&t is done.
45
46
                   MR. BRELSFORD: I know. That's always a
47 crowd pleaser.
48
                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It is, our whole c&t is
49
50 done.
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00189 1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. 2 3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. By the way, our 4 c&t is done, right, Pat? 5 6 Someone said you don't MS. McCLENAHAN: 7 have c&t for trout. 8 9 Trouts. Oh, make her day. MR. SAMUELSEN: 10 11 We do. CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We. 12 13 MS. McCLENAHAN: We'll check it out. 14 15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we have. 16 17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Rainbow trout we do. 18 19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. You're on. 20 21 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, Tim Jennings with 22 the Office of Subsistence Management. I have two items, 23 and I will be brief. They are under item -- tab G. 24 first one I will cover is consultation and coordination 25 with the State of Alaska. It follows the table on the 26 staffing to implement the federal subsistence fisheries 27 management. Several pages back in under tab G. It's 28 toward the end. It's right before the fisheries training 29 page. 30 31 MR. ABRAHAM: Tab what? 32 33 MR. JENNINGS: Under tab G. 34 MR. SAMUELSEN: G. It's right after the 35 36 numbers. 37 38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, consultation and 39 coordination with the State of Alaska? 40 41 MR. JENNINGS: Yes. 42 43 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. 44 45 MR. JENNINGS: Does everybody have that? 46 47 Uh-huh. All right. CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 48 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. 49 This is a brief 50 update in regards to the implementation of a memorandum of

agreement between the federal program, federal agencies, Federal Subsistence Board and the State of Alaska, and you'll recall the discussion that we had previously January training session last year regarding the MOA. The first set of bullets on this briefing paper covers the basic goals of the MOA, and I'm not going to cover those specifically. They're there for you to read. The second set of bullets lays out the specific agreements and protocols that will be worked on to implement the specifics 10 of the MOA.

11 12

And we want to give you just a brief sketch of how 13 things went the first year that we operated under this MOA 14 with the state. You know about the low returns on the 15 Yukon River, and we also had some early issues with chinook 16 salmon on the Kuskokwim River. This led to several special 17 actions by the Federal Board, in-season management 18 decisions by delegated in-season managers for the Federal 19 Board. There were some early bumps in the road with the 20 State on coordination, but those quickly were ironed out, 21 and overall things went very well. On the Yukon and the 22 Kuskokwim both where we had joint actions, there was joint 23 press release by both the state and the federal boards, and 24 the decisions were made in concert. So in looking back, we 25 felt that 2000 was a success given that it was the first 26 year, and there were challenges immediately on the Yukon 27 and the Kuskokwim.

28

29 The one think that we would like to ask in regards 30 to this MOA for the Council to consider is the specific 31 agreements, the protocols, the second set of bullets on 32 this page, in-season fisheries management, data management, 33 regulatory processes, identification of subsistence use 34 amounts, fisheries and wildlife management planning. 35 are currently work groups that are made up of interagency 36 staff on the federal level, some involving also state 37 agency folks, and we would like to continue to invite 38 council input in any of these protocols that you may have 39 interest in. And if any of your council members have 40 interest in any of the specific protocols and want to 41 become more actively participating in the development of 42 these protocols, we would ask that you let your coordinator 43 know, and we'll get you set up with whoever wants to 44 participate with teleconference meetings, or perhaps 45 occasional travel to Anchorage. Once these protocols are 46 developed further along, they will come back before the 47 entire regional advisory councils for review. 48 summarizes the MOA and the development of the protocols, 49 and I'll stop and see if there are questions.

50

00191 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council 1 2 members? 3 4 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just one I guess. 5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. 7 8 MR. SAMUELSEN: It says an interim MOA. take it, is this a signed interim agreement, or is it just 10 an agreed upon agreement? 11 12 MR. JENNINGS: Well, the way it worked was 13 it was initialled by the federal agencies and the state 14 agencies, and the Board of Fish, Board of Game and the 15 Federal Subsistence Board, and the understanding is it will 16 become final when the specific agreements are put in place. 17 18 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. 19 20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, if you kind of sit 21 there and look at each other out of the corner of your eye, 22 you know, and I'll sit on this side of the bench, and you 23 sit on that side of the bench and we'll initial the thing. 24 I thought that was really interesting that they..... 25 26 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. 27 28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:initial that thing, 29 but that's okay. Robert? 30 31 MR. HEYANO: Is there going to be enough 32 flexibility in these -- in the protocols so each region can 33 have a different set of criteria or arrangement, and other 34 than how the state and federal people are going to 35 interact? 36 37 MR. JENNINGS: Well, I think if there's a 38 need for that, I think that there's certainly that 39 opportunity. One of the areas that was looked at in that 40 regard was in-season fisheries management decisions, how 41 they're made, who's involved. We had experience, as I 42 mentioned, on the Yukon and on the Kuskokwim this year. 43 I believe there's an opportunity to have regional protocols 44 if it's identified that they're needed, but beyond that, 45 I'm not involved in any of the specific protocol work 46 groups, and so I'm not personally familiar with how those 47 are -- how the different protocols are currently being 48 developed. 49 50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: One thing I think that

00192 maybe the Federal Board agreed on, and Cliff probably can bring us up to speed on this, was I think the Federal Board decided they weren't going to do any -- had the word on the 4 tip of my tongue, any..... 5 6 MR. SAMUELSEN: In-season? 7 8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, it was -- what's the 9 word? 10 11 MR. SAMUELSEN: In-season emergency orders? 12 13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They call it Yeah. 14 something else in the federal program. 15 16 MR. JENNINGS: Special actions. 17 18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Special action, yeah. 19 And -- but apparently they had to up there on the Yukon, 20 and it was a joint effort. I think the state became pretty 21 sensitive about the subsistence issue with the lack of fish 22 in the Kvichak, too, and I think that's a good working 23 relationship, that they would be concerned about the 24 subsistence issue, too, so those things are good positive 25 things to bring to the Council. Anything else? 26 27 MR. SAMUELSEN: I've just got one more 28 comment, Mr. Chairman. I think MOAs are great, but in this 29 -- with the state out of compliance with ANILCA, you know, 30 and the Secretary -- it depends on what the Board does in 31 January with the massive conservation problems in the AYK I fully expect a letter to come out of AYK if it's 33 not a favorable, and the Area M fisheries that -- asking 34 the Secretary to extend his jurisdiction out, it will blow 35 this MOA up with the State. So, I don't know. I think you 36 guys are on the right track, but I think them -- that kind

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's probably a good 42 place to reiterate that we really do want to solve the 43 subsistence issue, and the State of Alaska is going to have 44 to solve that issue one day. They must solve it.

37 of instance is going to have a very profound effect on 38 whether you go beyond the people that initialized and are

39 signing the agreement.

40

41

45 46

MR. SAMUELSEN: That's right.

47 48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And up to this point, 49 they're working for the best of subsistence, and we 50 appreciate that. We can't overlook the push to solve the

00193 subsistence issue by the State of Alaska. Anything else, Tim? 3 MR. JENNINGS: That's it on this topic. 5 I'll move on to the next if..... 6 7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. 8 9 MR. JENNINGS:you're ready. 10 11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure. 12 13 MR. JENNINGS: The next page, regional 14 council fisheries training, phase three. By way of 15 background, just real briefly you'll recall that under 16 fisheries implementation last year, there was an 17 implementation plan that was set forth by the Federal Board 18 and the agencies to implement fisheries, and one of those

19 items involved training. And phase one of the training 20 involved Federal Board members orientation and field trips 21 out to subsistence fishing sites. Phase two of the 22 training was last January when we brought all the regional 23 councils together in Anchorage to have the training session 24 and discuss the MOA and some of the other items that we 25 addressed at that time. We also had an in-season 26 management meeting at the end of May to gear up for the 27 2000 season. So the next to-around here we're calling 28 phase three as it was identified in the plan. That is to 29 look back first on the year that just past, the first year 30 of federal involvement under dual management with

31 fisheries, and then to look forward in terms of how things 32 worked, how can we improve with the following year, and 33 continue to improve our understanding of the issues and how

34 we address these important issues.

35 36

The date here as you have already been discussing is in conflict with the Board of Fisheries meeting. What it was tied to was the training was tied with the council meeting that Taylor had mentioned for the council input on the projects for 2001. So if there is some ability to move and shift the dates in that regard, the training dates obviously can be shifted without a problem. So one of the things I've heard from other councils is that they would like us to shift those dates. So that's some of the input that I'm going to take back to the leadership, to Tom and to see if we can't make some adjustments.

46 to see if we can't make some adjustments.

As you see, this is a draft agenda that we have 49 listed. The first items is the review of the draft 50 fisheries studies projects for 2001. That's what Taylor

has covered in a great amount of detail. The other items that follow, the other five items, they are suggested topic areas, and at this time we have taken this to all the council meetings, asking for input on these topics or suggestions for other topics so that we can have good council input in shaping the agenda so that it will 7 hopefully best meet your needs as council members in terms of discussion areas and training. In addition to these topic areas, we'd like to hear from you about the format of 10 -- you'll recall we had some formal presentations with 11 graphics, speakers, and then some discussion period. We 12 also had some caucus sessions where we were able to talk 13 with -- just within the council setting about issues for 14 the regions. We'd like to hear your input on that kind of 15 a setting, what -- is there a balance that needs to be 16 struck again, and any input that you would give us in terms 17 of how to develop the agenda. So I'll stop here and ask 18 for any questions, and any input if you have it, either now 19 or in the morning before you adjourn so we can move forward 20 with the agenda. 21

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Council members, do 23 you have any questions or comments? Okay. Good.

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MR. JENNINGS: That's it, Mr. Chair.

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you. Appreciate 29 it. Way down to F.

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MR. JENNINGS: F.

> CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

MR. JENNINGS: Art contest, Cliff.

37 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, on the last topic 38 here, in our hunting and trapping regs and our new 39 subsistence regs, this art contest closes the 27th, and 40 they're going to select winners for four different grade 41 groups, and for next year, the 2001 regs books for both 42 these, we'd like to have the winners from each of those 43 grade groups utilize their drawings or -- whether it's in 44 ink, and some of these other mediums that are being 45 accepted. And the deadline for that is the 27th. Karen 46 Lovenstein in our office who does quite a bit of the work 47 with the publishers to get these books together sent out a 48 mass mailing statewide to I think it was around -- it was 49 quite a bit, but there's been a lot of PR done on that to 50 try and get participation from those grade schools to --

grade school kids. And some of the -- I'm not sure if all of you received your operations. We did another training manual, and for some of the artwork that may be included in those books as well. I know Shirley called and she said that she received her's, and I brought some additional copies of that here as well.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

10 MR. EDENSHAW: And that closes the 27th, 11 just as our proposal period does, too.

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that takes care of 14 that whole section now?

MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. We're down to 19 remaining agenda items, and tomorrow morning we're going to 20 have a report from Robin on the halibut for subsistence, 21 which passed the North Pacific Fisheries Management 22 Council.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Jim and Jeff, and that's Jeff Adams, they've probably gone home. Oh, they're here, okay. Tomorrow morning you're going to be on as well. And then we do have customary trade to deal with. Was there anything else, Council members, that we had to deal with now or tomorrow before we adjourn? Okay. If we are thinking in terms of you guys getting that 10:00 o'clock flight, you're going to have to be fleet of foot. And I don't see why we can't. Those are not big items. Jim and Jeff, it sounds like a signing group, but I've just been listening next door over there. We'll have you on in the morning, and I'm sure you'll have some exciting things for us, and then we can probably take care of these items quite quickly, and if we don't, we'll stay until we get done.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Sounds good.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Does everyone have a ride 45 to King Salmon? Council members, going to -- if you decide 46 to go to your rooms, you can go anywhere you want, but 47 we'll -- we can give you a ride, too. Some of us have 48 cars. We don't want you stumbling around in the dark, and 49 come back here tomorrow with a black eye or something.

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1 2	CERTIFICATE
2 3 4	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA))ss.
5	STATE OF ALASKA)
7 8 9 10	I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix, do hereby certify:
11 12 13 14 15	THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 196 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME I, BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Meredith Downing on the 13th day of October 2000, beginning at the hour of 1:00 o'clock p.m. at the Borough Assembly Chambers, Naknek, Alaska;
18	THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;
23 24 25	THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.
25 26 27 28 29 30	DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 26th day of October 2000.
31 32 33	Joseph P. Kolasinski Notary Public in and for Alaska My Commission Expires: 04/17/04